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Daily Report

LAST ISSUE

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LAST ISSUE

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-163
Wednesday
21 August 1996

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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-163 *21 August 1996*

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 21 Aug

LD2108064096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0457 GMT 21 Aug 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 21 (ITAR-TASS) — The MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS newspaper features an interview with President Boris Yeltsin where he calls on people not to divide the country into "ours" and "not ours" five years after the quash of the August putsch.

Asked whether a repetition of events, similar to August 1991, are possible, the president replied: "I do not preclude a chance that, under some circumstances, such attempts are possible, although their probability is small.

"In any case, results of such actions will be the same, if not more deplorable, than in August 1991. Our society and Russian statehood have changed over the past five years."

The press comments on a statement by General Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of federal forces in Chechnya, according to which Groznyy residents should leave the city within 48 hours. In the opinion of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper, if the general will keep his word, and rebels ignore his demand, "the war in Chechnya will erupt with a new force".

The army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA believes that Pulikovskiy's statement will not be followed by vigorous and efficient actions.

The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI daily underlines that head of the Chechen Republic Doku Zavgayev opposes a large-scale use of force in Groznyy.

The IZVESTIYA newspaper notes that there are various opinions at the General Staff of the Russian Army on Groznyy: whether to bomb at once or to wait.

The SEGODNYA newspaper believes that "the ultimatum can blow up the entire situation in the rebellious Republic".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs materials from a news conference by Finance Minister Aleksandr Livshits and an interview with new Minister of General and Professional Education Vladimir Kinelev.

Deputy of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) Boris Fedorov expresses opinion about the new government in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI.

He claims that "the reduction of the number of ministries and departments is clearly insufficient, the more so since previous reductions quickly turned into growth of the number of ministries and bureaucrats".

The ARGUMENTY I FAKTY weekly carries an interview with vice-premier Vitaliy Ignatenko on events connected with the escape of Russian pilots who were imprisoned by Taliban fighters for over one year.

Under the headline "Second round of Geydar Aliyev", the opposition newspaper Pravda prints an interview with the Azerbaijan president.

Under the title "Which disease hit President Yeltsin?", the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper carries a commentary by its analyst Pavel Voshchanov.

ARGUMENTY I FAKTY publishes an interview with former head of the Russian president's Security Service Aleksandr Korzhakov.

CIS: Economic Committee Presidium Examines Integration Plan

MM2008141696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 9

[Report by Igor Galkin: "Boiling at Freezing Point" — from the "Economic Union" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the latest — seventh — session of the Economic Union's Interstate Economic Committee presidium further consideration was given to the draft Long-Term Plan for CIS Integration in 1996-1997.

Given that the first year is already elapsing without any sort of plan, certain delegates at the session suggested extending the plan's time scale, especially since certain points have not yet been agreed.

After a sluggish exchange of opinions on these "difficult" points, it was decided to continue work on the document prior to submitting it for consideration by the Council of CIS Heads of Government. The date for this meeting has not yet been set.

The same recommendation — to continue work — was made regarding several other drafts considered at the Interstate Economic Committee presidium session. Among them it is worth highlighting the draft agreement on cooperation and coordination of activity in the field of currency exchange policy. Speakers subjected the document to rigorous scrutiny out of a concern to preserve the independence of national currencies. The aim of the agreement is to establish uniform legal and economic conditions for mutual measures to achieve exchange regulation and harmonization of national legislation on exchange control. Although everyone agreed that the problem is important and the proposed solution deserves attention, many doubts were nevertheless expressed. It was decided to continue work on the document.

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The debates became more heated during discussion of interstate drafts. States' representatives were on guard to ensure that these drafts did not conflict with their national legislation. It proved especially difficult to reconcile the proposed expansion of the Interstate Bank's powers with the republics' banking legislation. The governing body of this bank, which is not yet operational, is requesting an expansion of its powers, failing which it will simply not be able to function as a credit institution. In particular, the bank demands that its branches in the republics should have residents' rights (since these republics' governments are the bank's cofounders) and should be able to carry out exchange and other client service operations. The representatives of Moldova and Kazakhstan are refusing the bank this right.

As regards both the draft document on the bank and certain other matters, the experts had clearly not done their job properly. They should have clarified all the legal subtleties in order to avoid unnecessary crossing of swords at the session.

An example of rushed, unfinished work was provided by the proponents of the creation of a transnational financial-industrial group to deal with the use and repair of CIS member states' civil aircraft. The draft agreement on the creation of the financial-industrial group was proposed at a time when its founding documents had not yet been framed, and the session delegates found it difficult to judge the nature of the relationship between the new company and local authorities.

A draft from the Moscow government on the creation of a system of wholesale food markets in the Moscow region was greeted by the debaters with "great and universal approval."

By the year 2000 it is proposed to create nine markets with a total area of 124 hectares. The size of the investment is 1,328 billion rubles [R], including share capital of R394 billion and loan capital of R935 billion. The Commonwealth countries approved the Moscow authorities' proposal concerning food deliveries to this vast market. The session approved recommendations to Commonwealth states' governments to collaborate with the Moscow government in establishing the procedure and forms of cooperation in implementing the project.

The Interstate Economic Committee presidium also adopted several documents aimed at deepening integration in various sectors, and indicated measures for enhanced monitoring of the execution of the decisions and agreements adopted.

CIS: Red Tape Blamed for Delays in Integration

MM2008152796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 10

[Report by Sergey Vorobyev: "It Is Easier To Reach Agreement With Foreign Countries Than It Is With the CIS Countries" — from the "Economic Union" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second session of the Integration Committee, which was formed by decision of the Interstate Council of Customs Union Countries in the spring of this year, has been held in Moscow. Members of the governments of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan participated in its work. The Russian Federation was represented by, among others, Vice Premier Aleksey Bolshakov, Economy Minister Yevgeniy Yasin, Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov, and CIS Affairs Minister Valeriy Serov. Journalists were briefed on the problems discussed at the Integration Committee session by its Chairman N.K. Isingarin.

Two Hundred Documents. Zero Commitments

We produce a great number of fine documents, the committee chairman said. Back in September 1993 nine states, later joined by Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine (as associate members), signed the Treaty on Economic Union. No one remembers it today, but if you read the treaty you will see for yourselves that you could not wish for a better organized document. It covers the whole range of integrational relations among CIS states.

However, three years have passed and no real results are to be seen.

A plan whereby free trade zones, a customs union, a payments union...were to be formed was endorsed in 1994, but nothing has been done. Why?

If you look through and analyze the 600 documents which have already been adopted within the CIS, an interesting conclusion suggests itself. The documents devoted to economic integration (there are three of them) envisage virtually no mutual commitments at all. That is why the countries' economic union has not materialized.

The whole world is uniting and borders are disappearing, but this is happening because it is economically beneficial to do so.

Our economies were very closely linked before the collapse of the USSR. No one had conceived of this degree of integration. But that integration was built not on the basis of economic necessity but on the basis of commands, as a result of which armaments for submarines were built on the steppes of Kazakhstan.

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We will never, of course, fully restore all our former links and Kazakhstan will not manufacture equipment for submarines, but the preservation of economically valid contacts is vital to us.

Kazakhstan has no one to sell its coal from Ekibastuz to, except Russia. It is more advantageous for Uzbekistan to buy commercial grain from Kazakhstan than Canada. Russia has always supplied meat to the Urals and Siberia. Why import it from Argentina? Who wants Russian machine tools apart from the former CIS republics? Zhiguli cars are shipped first and foremost to the southern republics rather than to countries farther afield.

There is a danger today that we will go off in different directions. Some states declare that they want to integrate basically with the West, other states focus their gaze on the South.

But who is going to calculate how much time the restructuring of our countries' economies will thereby take? And will the time spent be compensated for by the new links acquired?

The Arithmetic of Integration

What we need is not political declarations or "higher mathematics" but the actual "arithmetic" of integration. We have no problems at the level of heads of government. They make very good decisions there.

But at the level of the people who actually carry them out we constantly run into bureaucratic obstacles. Decisions are delayed and shelved allegedly because they are economically inadvisable. The state organs' task is not to artificially impose various links on enterprises from above. We have obtained recommendations from Russia on forming financial-industrial groups which say that the head company must be located in Russia and come under Russia for tax purposes, that Kazakhstan must first and foremost supply raw materials, and so forth. The models for the proposed financial and industrial groups copy the models of associations in the former USSR. However, we think that links should be formed from below, by the enterprises themselves, while the task of government structures is to remove barriers to the processes of integration and create the requisite conditions.

What is the point, for example, of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan joining a "single economic area" if they have no treaty on the mutual convertibility of their currency? Neither side has dollars, of course. So how do they trade?

The CIS' paradox is that very close neighbors should be completely unable to solve questions which are easily solved by countries farther afield. Agreements to avoid dual taxation have not been concluded to date even by members of the Customs Union, although such agreements have been concluded with many Western countries.

Because customs barriers in the shape of a 20-percent duty existed until recently between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan it was more advantageous for them to buy traditionally imported goods (grain, glass, sugar, and cement) from overseas than from each other.

If we do not become an "innovatory" organ and are unable to set in motion a mechanism for agreeing decisions among our countries we will turn into a "talking shop" which works only for itself rather than for the real processes of integration.

CIS: Experts Discuss United Transport System in Minsk Meeting

LD2008214496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fomin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 20 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — A meeting of the leaders and specialists of the transport ministries of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia, which ended in Minsk today, was an important step forward in the creation of a united transport system in the four countries. Representatives of these states established the outlines for a future four-sided intergovernmental agreement on the principles of cooperation and the terms for mutual relations in the transport sector.

It was agreed that the states are to harmonize their basic legislation affecting transport, to conduct a common technical policy, to agree the principles for setting charges, and to cooperate closely in international transport.

The future agreement is also to contain standards to guarantee that documentation certifying qualifications in the transport sector and driving licences will be equally valid for all. The next meeting of the transport group, which was set up by an integration committee decision, will be held in Almaty at the end of September.

Baltics: Baltic, Nordic Foreign Ministers Meet in Riga 20 Aug

LD2108104896 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It is the opinion of the Nordic and Baltic foreign ministers that the negotiations on admission of new members to the European Union [EU] must start simultaneously with all candidates. At the

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meeting of the Nordic and Baltic ministers, which took place in Riga on 20 August, the participants stressed that such arrangement would ensure equality and success of the process of the EU enlargement.

The Baltic foreign ministers expressed their gratitude to the Nordic countries for their active political and practical assistance in the Baltics' integration into the EU. Most of the citizens of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia support the idea of joining the EU, the Baltic ministers said.

According to Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen, the Nordic countries support the admission of the Baltic countries to NATO. Sweden cannot guarantee the security of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, because it is a neutral country which chose not to join NATO, Hjelm-Wallen said at a news conference held in Riga after the ministers' meeting. She added that only the press considers the possibility of Sweden providing guarantees. Sweden cannot provide guarantees to any country, because it would thereby cease to be a neutral state.

Icelandic Foreign Minister Halldor Asgrimsson said the only way the Nordic countries can help safeguard the Baltic nations' security is by supporting their integration into NATO and the EU.

The foreign ministers of all three Baltic countries reaffirmed their countries' readiness to become members of NATO as early as in the first stage of NATO expansion.

The participants of the meeting agreed that every country has a right to choose the form of security guarantee which suits it best. They stressed the importance of the Baltic countries' security to the whole of northeastern Europe, and of the Nordic countries' support to the Baltic countries' efforts to create a joint European security system.

The Baltic and Nordic countries believe that, with the aim of developing cooperation, an area of free movement should be created and visa-free travel arrangements should be implemented. The latter was recognized as the priority objective on the way to cooperation in all areas and integration of the countries of the Baltic region. At the meeting in Riga, the ministers of the Nordic countries expressed their readiness to render practical support in solving the problems of illegal migration and fighting organized crime.

Baltics: EU, NATO Membership Discussed at Baltic, Nordic Meeting

LD2008175696 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of both Baltic and Nordic countries met on 20 August in Riga. Vallo Kelmsaar reports from the Latvian capital:

[Kelmsaar] A particular emphasis on the agenda of the meeting of Baltic and Nordic foreign ministers, which ended in Riga today, was laid on cooperation, international security, and the development of the EU, with prompt integration of the Baltic states into the EU first and foremost. The press statement issued after the meeting reports that today's meeting demonstrated once again that both the Baltic and Nordic countries view the future of the region in the furthering of cooperation, democracy, and market economy and in the strengthening of security and stability.

Today's meeting was not designed to adopt any resolutions. It was a traditional multilateral consultation. Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas, however, highlighted the constructive character of the meeting. He said that there was most of all talk about specific issues between the Baltic and Nordic countries. He mentioned the security issue and issues to do with free movement between countries as having been the topical subjects. Siim Kallas said that all the parties had voiced their firm conviction that visa-free movement was necessary. At the same time it was acknowledged that a lot of work still needs to be done to this end. Kallas mentioned as key problems the well-known issues of border control and overview of the people's movements, which means the use of corresponding registers so that it would be possible to monitor the movements of the criminal elements first and foremost. It was emphasized that visa-free travel affects only citizens of the countries.

Icelandic Foreign Minister Halldor Asgrimsson said at a press conference that followed the meeting that no Nordic country would be able to guarantee the Baltic countries' security. The guaranteeing of security can be achieved only through the member status in both NATO and the EU.

Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen emphasized that discussion of any other security guarantee, outside NATO, is first and foremost an issue raised by the mass media. Security issues were approached at today's meeting first and foremost from the point of view as to how to avoid the emergence of a security vacuum in the Baltic region.

Siim Kallas said that several positions had been put forward. He, however, declined to discuss these in

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detail. Estonia is said to have ideas as to how an interim stage between the Partnership for Peace and full membership of NATO could be created. It is a matter of expanding structural cooperation between NATO and the Baltic countries, Kallas said. Work in this sphere is said to be continuing.

The meeting also discussed cooperation. Siim Kallas said on this subject that Nordic cooperation is a good example to the world as to how countries can and do conduct their affairs jointly. Linking the Baltic countries into the same cooperation model has helped these countries a lot, according to Siim Kallas. He added that if Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania can follow the same cooperation models as the Nordic countries this would be very promising.

Baltics: Baltic, Nordic Foreign Ministers End Riga Meeting

LD2008170396 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of foreign ministers of the Baltic and Nordic countries has ended in Riga. During the meeting particular attention was paid to mutual cooperation between the Baltic and Nordic countries, issues of international security and the process of development of the European Union. The ministers agreed that the introduction of visa-free travel in the North and Baltic Sea region would be a significant step for the improvement of cooperation. The foreign ministers stressed that it was necessary to tackle issues related to illegal immigration into the Baltic states. The Nordic countries expressed their readiness to render support and promote cooperation between countries in the region in fighting organized crime.

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Russia: Moscow To Claim 'All Its Dues' for Spasso House Rent

MM2008160196 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 6

[Article by Maksim Yusin: "Diplomatic Arrears"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Spasso House — the well-known house in a side street near the Arbat [pedestrian mall] — could soon cease to be the U.S. ambassador's residence. This will happen if the Americans refuse to meet the Russians' demand for a rent increase.

The United States is insisting on compliance with the contract signed 11 years ago. According to this document it should pay...70,000 rubles [R] a year for the use of the building. Furthermore, this contract is supposed to run for another nine years — until 2005. However, one important detail is being overlooked here: The 1985 ruble and today's ruble are not the same thing at all.

On Smolensk Square Washington's approach is not taken seriously. Yuriy Proshin, chief of the Main Administration for Servicing the Diplomatic Corps, is in determined mood. He has said that Moscow firmly intends to recover all its dues from Washington. The Foreign Ministry is proposing the following method of calculation: R70,000 at the 1985 rate of exchange converts into around $60,000. This is the figure that the Americans should pay annually for Spasso House. However, even this figure is considerably below the market rate. That is why in the future the Americans will evidently be asked to pay approximately the same price per square meter as other foreign diplomats renting premises in this district.

For the time being, however, the Spasso House question remains in abeyance. The Foreign Ministry believes that it is hardly going to be settled under incumbent Ambassador Thomas Pickering. His tour of duty is coming to an end. The new ambassador, in all likelihood, will have to deal with the future of his residence from the beginning of his stay in Russia. Unless a compromise is reached Smolensk Square does not rule out the possibility that the Americans will be asked to change residences. This development of events is highly unlikely, however. Russian diplomats are convinced that Washington will ultimately pay its debts.

But there is no such confidence with regard to the other "malicious debtors" — the Iraqis. After the invasion of Kuwait and the imposition of international sanctions, Baghdad stopped paying rent for the embassy building and diplomats' apartments in Moscow. Iraq's debt currently stands at $3.8 million. Until recently Russia did not insist unduly on its immediate payment but now its patience seems to be running out. "After the UN Security Council gave Iraq permission to sell some of its oil the government is bound to receive the money which it claims not to have now. We will put the question in blunt terms: Either pay your debts or vacate the embassy building on Pyatnitskaya Street," a diplomat told IZVESTIYA, adding that [Foreign Minister] Yevgeniy Primakov agrees with this approach.

In addition to Iraq and the United States there is a large group of African states — Somalia, Rwanda, Chad, Cameroon, and Zaire — on the debtors' "black list." As a rule they occupy large buildings in the most prestigious districts of Moscow. Attempts to persuade the African diplomats to move to more modest premises have so far proved unproductive. The envoys ask for deferrals and promise to find the money but almost never find any. So far "Operation Relocation" has succeeded only in relation to the Chad embassy which has moved from a building in central Moscow to part of an apartment block.

Russia: Draft Protocol Amends Partnership Treaty With EU

MM2008115896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 11

[Russian Federation Government decree No. 905, signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin and dated Moscow, 27 July 1996: "On the Signing of a Protocol to the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation, Establishing Partnership Between the Russian Federation on the One Hand, and the European Communities and their Member States on the Other Hand" — from the "Economic Union" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. The draft protocol to the agreement, signed on the island of Corfu 24 June 1994, on partnership and cooperation, establishing partnership between the Russian Federation on the one hand, and the European Communities and their member states on the other hand, submitted by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations with the concurrence of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is approved.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is instructed to hold talks with the European Communities and, on reaching agreement, to sign on behalf of the Russian Federation the Protocol mentioned in Point 1 of this decree and is authorized to make amendments of a nonfundamental nature.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

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[Dated] Moscow, 27 July 1996

Protocol to the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation, Establishing Partnership Between the Russian Federation on the One Hand, and the European Communities and Their Member States on the Other Hand

The Russian Federation, on the one hand, and the Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of Denmark, FRG, Hellenic Republic, Kingdom of Spain, French Republic, Ireland, Italian Republic, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Republic of Austria, Portuguese Republic, Republic of Finland, Kingdom of Sweden, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, contracting parties to the Treaty founding the European Community, the Treaty founding the European Coal and Steel Community, and the Treaty founding the European Atomic Energy Community, hereinafter called the "member states," and

the European Community, European Coal and Steel Community, and European Atomic Energy Community, hereinafter called the "Community," on the other hand,

taking into account the addition of the Republic of Austria, Republic of Finland, and Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union and, therefore, to the Community, on 1 January 1995, have agreed on the following:

Article 1

The Republic of Austria, Republic of Finland, and Kingdom of Sweden are partics to the Agreement on partnership and cooperation, establishing partnership between the Russian Federation on the one hand, and the European Communities and their member states on the other hand, signed on the island of Corfu 24 June 1994, and, accordingly, like the other Community member states, accept the texts of the Agreement and joint declarations and take cognizance of the letters of exchange and declaration by the Russian Federation appended to the Final Act signed the same day.

Article 2

The texts of the Agreement, Final Act, and all the documents appended thereto are drawn up in the Finnish and Swedish languages. They are appended to this Protocol and have equal validity as the texts of the Agreement, Final Act, and all documents apended thereto in the other languages in which the Agreement, Final Act, and all documents appended thereto were done.

Article 3

This Protocol is done in two copies, each in the Russian and Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish languages, with all the texts being equally valid.

Article 4

This protocol has to be approved by the parties in accordance with their procedures.

This protocol comes into effect on the first day of the second month after the date when the parties inform one another of the implementation of the procedures mentioned in paragraph one.

Done in the city of... on the... day of... 1996.

Russia: Lack of Consensus at Geneva Disarmament Talks

LD2008150396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 20 Aug 96

[By Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GENEVA, August 20 (Itar-Tass) — The Conference on Disarmament today noted the lack of consensus at the Geneva talks on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban. This means that the draft treaty prepared as a result of intensive debates over two and a half years will not be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly. India, dissatisfied with a number of provisions of draft treaty and, specifically, with the fact that the treaty is not linked to the disarmament schedule of the five nuclear powers, firmly stated its disagreement with the draft treaty.

At today's plenary meeting, delegations of 61 participating countries in the Conference endorsed a report of the Special Committee for Banning Nuclear Tests to the U.N. General Assembly, which says that a consensus has not been reached. Chairman of the Special Committee and author of the draft treaty, Jaap Ramaker, nevertheless, deemed its necessary to point out that many delegations supported the draft treaty which is actually a limit of what could have been negotiated.

Secretary-General of the conference on Disarmament, Chief of the United Nations European Office Vladimir Petrovskiy told Itar-Tass he hopes the solution can be found at the last moment. He noted that the forum had carried out vast work. The draft had earlier included about one thousand of disputed proposals, and now these problem have virtually been resolved.

The chief practical result of the work on the treaty is that all nuclear powers imposed a moratorium on nuclear

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tests, Petrovskiy said. It is certainly important that work should not be wasted and the treaty becomes reality at the beginning of the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

All the five nuclear powers — Russia, United States, Great Britain, China and France — are among those who favoured the endorsement of Ramaker's draft. Nevertheless, they could not override India's veto as the Conference on Disarmaments works on a basis of consensus.

Chief of the Russian delegation Grigoriy Berdennikov told Itar- Tass: "We deplore the fact that the conference has been unable to prepare a draft on which Consensus could be reached. The treaty prepared by the Chairman of the Special Committee suited us and it suited the majority of other countries."

It is being said in the lobbies of the Conference that Ramaker's draft can still be referred to the 51st session of the U.N. General Assembly opening in New York on September 17. It can been submitted as a proposal of a group of countries and not on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament. It can be put to vote and then opened for the signing, but this would mean a blow to the prestige of the Geneva forum and would create an undesirable precedent of actions bypassing consensus.

The Conference on Disarmament continues working in Geneva. Its participants are to solve a number of procedural problems, for instance, to decide in what form a report of the Special Committee will be referred to the General Assembly.

Russia: Posuvalyuk Says Russia To Activate Role in Middle East

LD2008191796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 20 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Aug — The Russian side intends to activate its mediatory role in a settlement in the Near East in view of the stagnation in the talks process between the sides involved. This was stated today by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Viktor Posuvalyuk.

"The Near East conflict has seen better times," he said. "There is stagnation to be observed on the Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian talks fronts."

In view of this the Russian Foreign Ministry intends shortly to hold a number of bilateral meetings, and is ready to receive in the Russian capital head of the Palestinian National Authority Yasir 'Arafat, new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and head of the Syrian Foreign Ministry Faruq al-Shar'.

In the context of these efforts, the diplomat continued, preparations are currently being made for a trip by Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Yevgeniy Primakov planned for October to a number of countries involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It is also planned to strengthen cosponsorial interaction on a Near East settlement between Russia and the United States. In these frameworks preparations are being made for the Cairo summit on economic development of the Near East and North Africa, co-chaired by the Presidents of Russia and the United States. Viktor Posuvalyuk said there should also be a number of meetings on Lebanon in the context of helping the reconstruction and revival of that country.

Russia: 'Special Report' on NATO Peacekeepers in Bosnia

LD2008214396 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Aug 96

["Special report" from the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Dmitriy Khavin] The NATO mechanism, well oiled and tuned, which has been lying idle for decades, has worked precisely, almost without a hitch. Day after day, elite units of the world's strongest armies, sustaining almost no losses, were implementing the plan drawn up in Brussels. The peacekeeping tactic was very specific. The troops of the warring sides to the Bosnian conflict were disengaged and transferred from their positions to barracks. Their heavy weapons were moved to special storage depots where they are supposed to be idle. Key positions were taken by the peacekeepers' contingent, or by IFOR [Implementation Force] as they are abbreviated here.

Settlements housing soldiers, with air conditioning and all the amenities, have spread out at the foot of the Balkan mountains. These orange signs throughout Bosnia, called starling-houses here, mean the line drawn on the map in a far-away Dayton which separates ethnic communities. In the demilitarized zone adjoining the line, no-one except the peacekeepers have the right to carry arms, including local policemen. That's why, when they see them, saleswomen from this small flee market hide in the demilitarized zone literally under the cover of Italian soldiers guarding it.

The task of the peacekeepers is extremely controversial. The interethnic disengaging line should not become a border and prevent free movement. IFOR soldiers regularly remove illegal checkpoints installed either by

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Serbs, Croats, or Muslims to stop people of a different religion from entering their zones.

Apart from the 16 members of the North-Atlantic Alliance, small contingents from about a dozen and a half other countries are also taking part in the operation. The success of Russian paratroopers and the effectiveness of their joint patrolling with the Americans, is on everyone's lips here. Our military, however, are reaching their own conclusions. They think that interaction between units from different countries just proves that there is no need for the existence of military blocs and, above all, NATO.

The Russians' concern can be understood since the North-Atlantic Alliance is obviously being consolidated in the Balkans. On the other hand, it is also obvious that the presence of UN troops here in the past, with their unclear powers and indecisive command, led to enormous human losses, destruction, and the tragedy in Srebrenica. And today international civil organizations cannot do without the NATO machine. At the very beginning the NATO command stated that IFOR would only deal with military tasks. But now, 7,000 combat engineers are forced to rebuild destroyed bridges, roads and railway tracks. Several hundred reserve officers have been called up to organize the work of transport, industry, agriculture, construction, and education. All this is a good indication that NATO is gradually getting bogged down in the problems of one of the most conflicting countries in Europe.

On the election day, 14 September, refugees, comprising half of the country's population, should have an opportunity to vote where they lived in the past and from where they were expelled during ethnic cleansing. The peacekeepers will be guarding 4,000 polling stations. But people, frightened so much over the war years, are most likely to vote within the boundaries of their communities. There are fears that under the circumstances, in the country which has not yet cooled down after civil strife, nationalist parties will win the largest number of votes which means that the ethnic division of the country will be consolidated further and tension will remain. It is very unlikely that the peacekeeping operation will end on the 366th day, as determined in Dayton, planned in Brussels and promised by politicians.

In a simple American military shop here in Bosnia one can buy a T-shirt quoting President Clinton's statement: The troops will be home from Balkans in one year. President Bill Clinton. And another commentary on the back: However we don't know which year.

Dmitriy Khavin, The Russian Line agency from Bosnia, specially for NTV. [video showed an aerial view of the region, movement of IFOR tanks, military settlements, roadblocks]

Russia: Zhirinovskiy, Vacationing in Iraq, Makes Proregime Remarks

MM2008185096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "'Friend for Life.' Vladimir Zhirinovskiy Spends Vacation With Saddam Husayn"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has arrived in Baghdad again. The capital of Iraq has recently been one of the two cities in the world which the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] visits particularly frequently and gladly. The other city is Strasbourg, where the Council of Europe's parliamentary sessions take place four times a year. But Zhirinovskiy has been going there to work. In Baghdad he prefers to relax.

This visit has been no exception. As we were told by the LDPR Duma faction, Vladimir Volfovich set off for Iraq at the invitation of Saddam Husayn, who has called Zhirinovskiy his "friend for life."

In the past six years the LDPR leader has done a great deal to deserve this title. He supported Saddam Husayn's aggression against Kuwait. He furiously condemned the Western allies' military operation in the Persian Gulf. He organized a spectacle at Sheremetyevo Airport entitled "The departure of volunteers to help battling Iraq." True, it subsequently transpired that none of "Zhirinovskiy's hawks" had any intention of flying out to Baghdad.

Vladimir Volfovich was true to himself this time too. No sooner had he stepped onto Iraqi soil than he gave an interview to the official agency, INA, calling UN sanctions a "preposterous crime against the Iraqi people," and he advocated strengthening "friendly relations" between Russia and Iraq.

Russia: Moscow Regrets Turkey's Support of Chechen Separatists

LD2008180996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Aug 20 (Interfax) — Moscow regrets that "certain forces in Turkey are still acting in support of Chechen separatists despite Ankara's official position on non-involvement in Russia's internal affairs," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday.

Russian officials made this statement during Russian-Turkish Foreign Ministry consultations last week in

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Ankara, he said. Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk headed the Russian delegation at the talks.

"Russia explained its position concerning the Kurds at the request of the Turkish party," Demurin said.

"Turkey's relations with its Middle Eastern neighbors were at the center of discussions," he said.

"Ankara plans to pursue a more active peace policy in this region, primarily aimed at establishing an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation, according to the Turkish party. The moves to strengthen economic ties with Iraq and Iran recently undertaken by Turkey must be viewed in this context," Demurin said.

While discussing the situation in Transcaucasus and Middle Asia, "the parties were unanimous in their interest in helping settle existing conflicts and creating a situation of peace and stability."

According to Demurin, "the Turkish party welcomed Russia's initiative to hold a meeting between heads of member-states of the organization of the Black Sea region economic cooperation in October in Moscow and expressed its readiness to participate."

Russia: Aircraft Sales Planned to Iran, Slovakia, ROK, Taiwan

MM2008132696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 15

[Unattributed roundup of reports under general heading: "Russian Aircraft To Fly To Three Parts of the World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Samara — A contract for the sale of 12 Tu-154M aircraft and An-124-100 aircraft to Iran has been signed in Iran by Maravshi, an aide to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Lev Khasis, president of the "Aviakor" joint-stock company. This is the Samara enterprise's biggest foreign order. The agreement provides not only for the sale of the airliners but also their subsequent technical servicing and capital repair. The order, worth over $100 million, will provide aircraft builders with work for a long time. The final aircraft will be handed over to Iran in October next year and cooperation may be continued.

Bratislava — Russia will render all-around aid to Slovakia in creating its national airline. Specific steps were taken in this direction during a working visit to Bratislava by Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, general director of the "Aeroflot-Russian International Airlines" joint-stock company.

Summing up the results of the talks which were held, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov stated that the aircraft for the Slovak national airline will be supplied within the framework of the repayment of Russian debts to Slovakia since the collapse of the USSR. The Tu- 154 will probably be the basic aircraft.

Seoul — The South Korean Government has announced that an accord has been reached with Russia stipulating that Moscow will supply Seoul with enriched uranium and helicopters in partial payment of debts for credits provided to the former USSR.

According to the statement by the South Korean Ministry of Finance and Economy, at recent talks the sides agreed that Russia will supply South Korea with helicopters worth $15 million.

Ulyanovsk — Russian aircraft builders intend to use the promising "Taiwan" salient for broad access to foreign markets, primarily the Asian market, for the middle-range Tu-204 airliner. These aircraft, created at the Ulyanovsk aircraft plant, are equipped with Russian PS-90a or British Rolls Royce engines.

The Ulyanovsk "Aviastar" aircraft complex has opened a regional office of its "Aviastar Asia Corporation" air company in Taipei.

"Aviastar Asia Corporation," which plans to bring its incorporation capital up to $200 million in the next few years, will be involved in the marketing, sale, and leasing of aircraft from the Tu-204 family on the markets of ASEAN countries and possibly mainland China. The plan for the forthcoming year is to sell the 20 aircraft already built in Ulyanovsk.

Russia: Heilongjiang Leader on Benefits of Nakhodka-Harbin Corridor

MM2108100896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 15

[Report by Igor Leonidov under the "Fact and Commentary" rubric: "Light at the End of the Transport Corridor"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A transport corridor between the Chinese city of Harbin and the Russian city of Nakhodka could give a powerful boost to economic ties between China's northern provinces and Russia's Far East, according to Wang Chong Zhang, vice governor of the Chinese province of Heilongjiang. He has had talks with the mayor of Nakhodka, Viktor Gnezdilov, and enlisted his support in organizing a transport corridor.

Wang Chong Zhang said that China's northern provinces want to have an outlet to the sea and export their goods to countries in the Asia-Pacific region via the port of Nakhodka. At present, these provinces dispatch freight from ports in southern China, but they are much further away than Nakhodka. Moreover, China's railways are overloaded, which holds back the

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export potential of Chinese companies in the north of the country.

The vice governor stressed that the Chinese side would like to ship coal, grain, fertilizers, various types of machinery, and light industrial goods to countries in the Asia-Pacific region from the port of Nakhodka. Harbin alone is surrounded by four mining towns which extract 100 million tonnes of coal per year. Some of this coal could perfectly well be transferred via Nakhodka's deep-sea East Port with its modern coal complex. The heads of the port are also showing an interest in this happening. It has sufficient capacity to handle an additional 8 million tonnes of Chinese solid fuel. The mayor of Nakhodka, Viktor Gnezdilov, has said that the city's East Port could well be handling 1 million tonnes of coal mined in the province of Heilongjiang as early as next year.

The plans currently being studied by specialists in Nakhodka and Harbin envisage the creation of a transport corridor for heavy-freight vehicles, trains, and aircraft. The Chinese city of Suifenhe and the Russian settlement of Poltavka would serve as crossing points on the border between Russia and the PRC.

China Moves Ever Closer to Maritime Kray

As excessively high tariffs are levied on the transport of freight for export from remote parts of China to the country's sea ports, Chinese provinces adjacent to Russia are showing increasing interest in exporting goods via Russian ports on the Pacific. Due to the present socioeconomic situation, Maritime Kray is likewise showing greater interest in the transit of Chinese goods for foreign trade, as it could almost become the main source of hard currency revenue for the kray, and for its ports in particular.

Guaranteeing unimpeded access to ports on the Sea of Japan has always been one of the most important tasks for the PRC and China's northeastern provinces (Manchuria). This region of China is the country's industrial heartland and the largest exporter of coal, bituminous shale, metallurgical products, and textiles in the Pacific Basin. Backing up the economy and foreign trade of these provinces with a proper standard of transport is possible, the PRC believes, with the help of Russia's Far Eastern communications.

Moreover, Chinese experts have repeatedly stressed that improving transport links between the PRC (and its northeastern provinces, in particular) and Russia is an integral part of the common market of goods, capital, and services now forming in Northeast Asia. In any case, the new transport corridor will greatly strengthen China's economic presence in Maritime Kray.

Russia: Talks With Finland on European Security Continue

LD2108102396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0945 GMT 21 Aug 96

[By Vladimir Mostovets]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HELSINKI, August 21 (Itar-Tass) — Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevskiy on Wednesday continued the Russian-Finnish consultations on security and cooperation in Europe, according to the press release of the Russian Embassy in Finland circulated on Wednesday.

The talks which started at the Finnish Foreign Ministry on August 19, confirmed the unanimity of the two sides' views at the comprehensive European security in the 21st century.

An opinion was voiced at the consultations to step up joint efforts in this respect in view of the Lisbon summit of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in December.

The Russian side confirmed its principled stance on NATO's eastward expansion. The participants in the consultaions were united in the opinion on inadmissability of setting up new demarcation lines in Europe or ensuring the security of some countries at the expense of others.

In this connection, the press release said, the participants drew attention to new developments likely to emerge in the situation in the Baltic Sea region.

Russia: Polish-Belarusian Waterway Pact Important for Russia

MM2008120896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 15

[Report by Aleksey Baliyev: "New 'Window Onto Europe'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The agreement between the Belarusian and Polish river fleet departments, signed 10 August, to increase freight transport along the Pripyat-Bug waterway and onward along the Bug-Vistula-Notec-Warta-Oder water system emerging at the Central German Canal (Oder-Elbe-Rhine) is strategically important to the Belarusian economy and also to Russia's foreign economic relations.

First, this will ease the friction in Belarus' relations with Ukraine and Lithuania over the high transit tariffs on those countries' territories. The shortest route to Germany, the Benelux countries, and France not burdened by transit and other disagreements with Ukraine and the

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Baltic countries is, in the opinion of many West European and Polish specialists, a sort of "lifeline" not only for the Belarusian but also for the Russian economy.

The commitment of Minsk and Moscow to increasing the volume of freight transport to the countries of Central and West Europe necessitates more active use of the Bug-Oder water artery. The aforementioned agreement confirms this.

Second, this route could also be used to transport oil from Russia (for example, by means of a combination of water and oil pipeline transportation), since some sections of the Belarusian- Polish sector of the "Druzhba" oil pipeline run through ports on the Bug, Vistula, Notec, Warta, and Oder rivers, i.e. parallel to the Bug-Oder route. In conditions in which Russian oil exports to Europe by other routes (in particular, via the Bosporus and Dardanelles) have become problematic, the use of the trans-Europe waterway becomes inevitable. And the Belarusian-Polish agreement "opens the floodgates" for the influx of Russian Federation external trade along this artery.

Third, prospects for the development of economic and political cooperation within the Moscow-Minsk-Warsaw "triangle" are expanding, especially since Poland is interested in the transit of external trade freight from Belarus and Russia.

Our "Business in Russia" publication (10 August 1996) noted that in the context of current trends in the region between the Baltic and the Black Sea the return to traditional routes for trans- European transport is becoming an objective necessity. Among these routes is the Bug-Oder waterway (running from Mozyr in Belarus through Kuestrin in Germany) [as published; Kostrzyn is now in Poland].

Russia: Moscow Warns Tajik Peace Settlement Under Threat

LD2008151096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1452 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 20 (Interfax) — The agreements on cease-fire and exchange with POWs reached between Dushanbe and the Tajik opposition, as well as the prospect of resuming shortly the continuous round of inter-Tajik talks, "are currently under the threat of disruption," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday.

"Moscow views the information related to the situation in Tajikistan and Tajik settlement with growing concern," he said.

The armed formations of the Tajik opposition are continuing hostilities near Tavil-Dara, he said. It was impossible to realize the agreement on a meeting between Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and leader of the Tajik opposition Sayed Abdullo Nuri due to the non-constructive course of its leadership, Demurin said. "The tense situation is being preserved on the Tajik-Afghan border where opposition fighters are accumulating on the contiguous territory," he said.

"The Russian party calls on the leadership of the Tajik opposition to give up methods of a coercive solution of the Tajik problem which aggravates the situation and increases sufferings of the people," Demurin said.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Sums Up Five Years Since August Coup Attempt

MK2108104396 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed interview with Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin; place and date not given: "Boris Yeltsin: 'If It Were Not for August....' On the Fifth Anniversary of the Putsch the Russian President Responded to Questions From the Newspaper MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS] What could have been Russia's history if it were not for the State Committee for the State of Emergency [GKChP]?

[Yeltsin] Five years have passed since the dramatic events of August 1991. One thing is indisputable: The massive popular upsurge in defense of freedom is a glorious page in Russian history of which we are rightfully proud.

Could history have taken a different course? Possibly. Although, I must admit, I did not really think that the old regime would go without trying to hold on to power at any price. Even by illegal actions and violence.

The consequences of the coup were contradictory. On one hand, if it were not for the GKChP, the breakup of the old system would not have been so precipitous. Much could have been done more gradually — in an evolutionary form.

But on the other hand, it would have been more difficult to begin the changes. They were long overdue, but the union leadership kept putting them off. By the early 90's the protracted agony threatened a real catastrophe. Without the August events, the pressure on the dam would have continued to grow, and the subsequent downfall could have proven far more tragic.

At the same time it would have been impossible to avoid many of the negative consequences of the collapse of the old regime just the same. For instance, interethnic conflicts. Sometimes they are seen as a consequence of the disintegration of the former Union. But this is not so. They had taken years to evolve and would have inevitably taken on acute and open forms.

Be that as it may, the GKChP is an example of how politicians who remain captives of the past achieve results directly opposite to what they intend.

The putschists, wishing to retain the Union, in effect did everything to undermine it. In a bid to preserve the CPSU, they did everything to bring its collapse closer.

[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS] Is a repetition of the August 1991 events possible now?

[Yeltsin] I do not rule out that under certain circumstances such attempts are possible, although their probability is low. In any event, the results of such actions will be the same, if not more deplorable than in 1991.

Over the past five years both society and Russian statehood itself have changed. The recent presidential elections graphically demonstrated this. It is no accident that the intransigent opposition is increasingly talking about the need "to gradually grow into the power structure."

Danger rather lies elsewhere. There is still a visible trend toward the search for an enemy and an uncompromising all-out struggle in Russia. The so-called "class hatred," and division into "them and us," and "our own and aliens" are making themselves felt. All of these are the consequences of many years of life under the conditions of a totalitarian state. And they will not disappear overnight.

We have not as yet finished school; we are still learning the difficult science of freedom. But I am convinced that Russia will eventually master it and emerge as a truly free Russia. This, in fact, will be the main result of the August victory.

Russia: Yeltsin Appeals for End to Divisions in Society

LD2008160996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1521 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Aug, ITAR-TASS — Five years after the defeat of the State Committee for the State of Emergency [1991 coup], Russian President Boris Yeltsin has appealed for people not to divide the country into "friend" and "foe."

In an interview for MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, the text of which has been circulated by the head of state's press service, Boris Yeltsin, asked whether a repetition of the events like those of August 1991 was possible now, said: "I do not rule out the possibility that given certain circumstances such attempts might arise, though the likelihood is small. In any case, the results of such actions would be the same, if not more lamentable than in August 1991. Over the past five years, both society and Russian statehood itself have changed. The recent presidential elections were a graphic demonstration of this. It is no coincidence that even among the intransigent opposition the view is now increasingly being voiced of "a gradual growing into power."

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"Rather the danger lies elsewhere," the president continued. "In Russia there is still a noticeable tendency to seek enemies and irreconcilable confrontation. So-called 'class hatred' and the division [of people] into "us" and "them," into 'friend' and 'foe' are making themselves felt. All this is a consequence of long years of living in a totalitarian state. It will not vanish overnight. We are still at school, learning the difficult science of freedom. But I am convinced that Russia will definitely master it and become a truly free Russia. That will be the main result of the August victory."

Russia: Yeltsin Reported in Hospital; Aide Refuses To Confirm

LD2008115396 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1130 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, press secretary to the Russian president, has declined to confirm in an interview to our radio station a report that Boris Yeltsin is currently staying at the Chazov cardiology center. He insists that the head of state has flown to Valday for two days, to see if he can spend his vacation there.

However, our radio station's information suggests that the president is indeed staying at the cardiology center.

Russia: Yeltsin's Condition 'Moderately Serious'; Aide Says 'Nonsense'

LD2008122596 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1143 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with the Moscow Echo radio station, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, press secretary to the Russian president categorically denied the media reports that Boris Yeltsin has been admitted to the Russian cardiological industrial scientific complex, named after Academician Yevgeniy Chazov, of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of the Russian Federation.

According to reports Moscow Echo received from a number of well-informed sources earlier, since Thursday 15 August Russian President Boris Yeltsin has been in the Chazov cardiological center. According to the sources, the doctors describe the president's state as moderately serious [sostoyaniye sredney tyazhesti]. It is possible that the question whether to carry out a surgical operation will be decided in the next few hours.

Yastrzhembskiy described this information as "total nonsense" and said that Yeltsin had left Moscow and gone for two days to the Valday to see if he wanted to spend his annual leave there. At the same time the presidential press secretary said that it was not today [20 August] that the president left the capital.

"Together with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Boris Nikolayevich is closely following the process of the formation of the new Cabinet of Ministers," Yastrzhembskiy said. "It is expected that the president will this week return to Moscow to hold several meetings with government members."

In an interview with the Moscow Echo radio station, Grigoriy Domba, acting chief doctor of the Chazov cardiological center, also denied that Yeltsin was in the cardiological center: "You can come here personally to make sure that he is not here."

Russia: Yastrzhembskiy Makes 'Exclusive' Comments on Yeltsin's Health

LD2008173996 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 96

[Video report by Vadim Glusker, including 'exclusive' recorded remarks by presidential press secretary Sergey Yastrzhembskiy at the Kremlin; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yeltsin has gone to Valday for two days to see if it was possible to spend his annual leave there. This statement was made today by the presidential press secretary who justified the need for a statement by yet more conjecture and assumptions regarding the president's whereabouts.

Our correspondent Vadim Glusker has met Sergey Yastrzhembskiy [press secretary to the Russian president].

[Glusker] One would not envy the presidential press service at present — every day it has to deny new rumors that the head of state is allegedly in poor health. Let us remind you that the first denials appeared on 19 August after the publication of an article in the U.S. TIME magazine on 18 August.

Today, in an exclusive interview with NTV, press secretary to the president Sergey Yastrzhembskiy gave additional arguments defending the opposite.

[Yastrzhembskiy] Boris Nikolayevich has gone to Valday for two days to see if it is possible to spend his annual leave there. Valday is 450 km from Moscow — please note, it is a considerable distance. By helicopter it takes about two hours and twenty minutes. I think that the mere fact that the president spends so much time in the air — two hours and twenty minutes to Valday and the same amount of time back — is the best denial of all the conjecture regarding his health that has been circulated in the last few days.

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[Glusker] It is known that Boris Yeltsin has three residences for rest: Barvikha and Zavidovo near Moscow and Sochi [on the Black Sea]. It is there that he usually spends his holidays. However, this year it seems that the choice will be made in favor of the presidential residence in Novgorod Region.

[Yastrzhembskiy] Valday is best suited to meet the president's needs after the exhausting election campaign. It has the best parameters in terms of climate, temperature, and air quality. All these components are present at Valday and they perfectly meet the current requirements.

[Glusker] The president's current trip to Valday will last for two days. Therefore, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy is not advising the particularly persistent journalists to try and get through to the Valday Height. At the end of the week Boris Yeltsin will return to Moscow where he will hold several meetings with the new members of the Cabinet of Ministers.

[Yastrzhembskiy] It is best for journalists to stay in Moscow and wait for Boris Nikolayevich's return here. Incidentally, to compare the geographical map of the locations of Boris Nikolayevich's residences, there are three of them in all, with the number and the geographical sparseness of the residences of President Clinton, and there are 89 of them, I think our journalists are in a better position.

Russia: Former Aide Voshchanov Writes on Yeltsin's Health

MM2008173596 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Aug 96 pp 1, 2

[Article by political observer — and former Yeltsin press secretary — Pavel Voshchanov: "What Ails President Yeltsin?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] TIME reports: "Yeltsin's aides say he is simply exhausted. But a document signed by the head of a team of doctors orders 'urgent measures.'

"The ischemia and 'constriction' of the heart caused by blocked arteries for which he has already been hospitalized flared up from the tempo of the election campaign. A Kremlin press secretary has announced that Yeltsin will have 'preventive treatments' during a two-month vacation. At the same time U.S. intelligence sources say that if Yeltsin were under American care, doctors would immediately order an operation."

The recent reports in the Western mass media of major problems with the Russian Federation president's health were promptly denied by Kremlin Press Secretary Sergey Yastrzhembskiy. We would be happy to believe his assertions, but...

The more references to Hippocrates, cunning formulas such as "the president is preparing for his vacation" (after a one-month hiatus!) or "Boris Yeltsin has flown to Valday for two days to see whether he can spend his next vacation there" (an astounding invention on the part of the press service!) there are, the less we believe the official assessments.

While sincerely wishing Boris Nikolayevich health and good spirits, let us nevertheless note that the problem of how the president is feeling is not so much an ethical problem, as the Kremlin journalists constantly hint, as an explosive state problem.

With every day the topic of Yeltsin's health is becoming increasingly pressing, although in our country it is regarded as somehow indecent and even blasphemous to publicly discuss this (clearly because of purely Russian traditions). In Russia we have our own custom — washing the bones of the dead. So at present all sorts of foreign countries are far more perturbed about the condition of the Russian president. Over there this subject is being discussed both in the press and in political circles. Whereas we have only a tactful silence or the cunning evasions of officials. However, Boris Yeltsin, like anyone else who may subsequently find himself in his post, is precious only to his family both in sickness and in health. It is nasty to be spiteful and gloat over his ailments. But we cannot ignore them entirely because, so far as the country is concerned, he is a component which may stop or skew the whole machinery of state if it wears out.

Yeltsin likes least of all to read claims that he is in poor health. He takes a calmer view even of allegations that he abuses alcohol — let them slander me! In 1991 Kremlin staffer Cherkashin, who worked on Ryurikov's staff, almost lost his job merely for attributing the cancellation of a meeting with Samaranch to the Russian president's sickness. It has to be admitted that Yeltsin is perpetually at odds with his aides over this matter. In January 1992 a meeting with the Japanese foreign minister was delayed for 24 hours. At the time the apparatus attributed the incident to a cardiac ailment afflicting the Kremlin incumbent. But the next day the incumbent himself told his interlocutor quite the reverse: "I have no heart problems and have never had any! Every day I take a cold shower and I am in superb form." The Japanese nodded happily, but it was clear that inside he was astonished: In that case why had he been treated like that? In general, if you assess heads of state on the basis of the number of official meetings canceled at short notice, our Yeltsin certainly holds the record. And every time after the latest embarrassment his apparatus has disclosed: He is sick. And every time the "man himself" has denied this.

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Yeltsin's worst year for "downtime" was 1995. It began with "temporary incapacity" after a nose operation. In April too he spent almost no time in his Kremlin office — because of hypertension, it was explained at the time. He spent two weeks in July in the Central Clinical Hospital with the official diagnosis "ischemic disease," and then spent a further two weeks regaining his strength in a sanatorium outside Moscow. He was hospitalized again in October. And he rested once again in a sanatorium outside Moscow right up until the new year. Whatever Kremlin propaganda may say about the president "carefully following...working with documents...being briefed...," the impression is different: Yeltsin was only nominally performing his functions as president. It was really the apparatus that was ruling, a situation that suited it down to the ground and still does suit it today. That is why it so zealously propelled the "main candidate" to victory. In general the present regime is a regime of favorites. Of Potemkins [favorite of Catherine the Great] and Potemkin villages. And also of palace intrigues and coups.

What does the country currently know about its president's health? Almost nothing. And what it does know is derived from various foreign sources. These occasionally report certain information, citing German, American, or Spanish doctors. And what is the response of our Kremlin medics? They piously maintain medical confidentiality, which in the present case smacks more of the confidentiality of investigations. On the other hand officials (even those close to the throne) sometimes venture to offer revelations. Admittedly only after looking all around, speaking in barely more than a whisper, and issuing the exhortation: "Don't even think of naming me!" Naturally, it is impossible to guarantee that information garnered in the corridors is absolutely reliable and 100 percent complete. But if you leave on the list of ailments only those that have been reported by at least three informants, the picture is still a depressing one: chronic inflammation of the middle ear (he is almost totally deaf in one ear, which is why during meetings with foreign visitors the presidential interpreter always stands on the opposite side from that envisaged by international protocol), cirrhosis of the liver and poor kidney function [pochechnaya nedostatochnost], rapidly advancing stenocardia and consequent trouble in sleeping. Over the last year Yeltsin has suffered two infarcts. Doctors managed to stop the arrhythmia and lower his blood pressure for a while, but they did not succeed in defeating the disease. Today the question is more serious — a heart operation. As far back as the beginning of the year people in his immediate entourage were whispering that an operation is the only hope [perspektiva] for Boris Nikolayevich. Today, after the election victory, the most informed sources in the Kremlin have confirmed the need for surgical intervention.

Nothing could be simpler than to object that this is slander and filthy tittle-tattle. But it is not for nothing that the security service has protected Yeltsin's case history from outside eyes as the most important state secret! There have certainly been plenty of people who would like to take a look inside it. Ahead of the elections some of Zyuganov's supporters were promising huge sums of money for photocopies of medical documents. After learning of this (from various sources, furthermore), Korzhakov introduced the strictest controls: Henceforth the case history must be kept in his personal safe and issued to A. Grigoryev, the doctor in charge of treatment, only so he could make the appropriate notes. In 1995, when the president spent a long time as a patient in the Central Clinical Hospital, staff of the department where he was undergoing treatment were subjected to the strictest monitoring, including external surveillance and the bugging of telephones. Any suspicious contacts were immediately reported to the chief of the Kremlin guard. Everybody knew this, so it was simply futile to question anyone. The answer was always the same: "The president is feeling fine. He is working with documents daily. The premier, ministers, and aides are coming to report to him." All this was supposed to convince the people that the country was not left without appropriate leadership.

During the busy days ahead of the election it seemed as though something incredible had happened — Yeltsin had recovered from his ailments. For a couple of months he traveled all over virtually half of Russia. He was tough on the fat cats of the bureaucracy and generous with his poverty-stricken subjects. He handed out all kinds of gifts — from cars to high state awards. He smoothly revoked "harmful" old edicts and adopted "fateful" new ones. He personally attended all sorts of ceremonies and entertainments. He sang, he danced, in short, he in no way resembled the Yeltsin declining swiftly into decrepitude who was now gradually becoming familiar to Russians. It was hard to believe that for the last year or two he had more or less been shuttling between three destinations: treatment in the Central Clinical Hospital, recuperation in a sanatorium outside Moscow, vacation in Sochi, which had become virtually Russia's second capital (and it sometimes seemed its first).... But the elections are over, and everything has come full circle.

It has to be said that Yeltsin changed immediately after the first round. Three trips and almost all the campaign meetings were canceled. On the eve of the crucial day the security service and his closest aides were in a quandary: Should they take the boss to vote at his home

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in Moscow? A polling place was hastily set up specially for him actually in Barvikha.

Strictly speaking, today Yeltsin "mark two" is in no way different from "mark one." He has moved to his fastness of Barvikha and only occasionally pays brief visits to the Kremlin. It will be a long time before people in the Russian heartland see him now. Even the Russian head of state's timetable of international contacts (meetings, talks, visits) is at present altogether up in the air. At any rate, attempts to find out anything about this were fruitless. Thus he has been crowned, has installed his retainers in their chambers, and has immediately gone on vacation. No one is saying how long for. Presidential services are in general pretending that this is nobody's business. Any citizen, they claim, has the right to rest, and the president is no exception. However, this year's main effort, from which rest is indeed appropriate, has been to defend the Kremlin throne from interlopers. It is impossible to think of any other, more significant actions. Moscow, full of banners proclaiming "Implement the President's Program!", looks rather strange against this background. Before the elections it seemed that a program was what the candidate himself was promising to do if elected. But it transpires that voters themselves will have to struggle to implement it on their own. Somebody will lead them, of course. But who?

What we now know of the president's specific deeds fits in with a simple formula we are now rather tired of: "He met with.... He instructed.... He signed...." TV increasingly rarely shows "live pictures," and even then only in a rather stereotyped form: He takes a couple of steps, shakes hands, sits down — all seen in medium shot. It sometimes seems that all this is a kind of magic trick: We voted for Yeltsin, but he has turned into Chubays. The former privatizer is now calling the shots in the Kremlin. Wherever you turn you find his people. According to certain information, Yeltsin no longer signs any paper unless it is initialed by the new chief of staff. Even the premier's signature is not always decisive. So everything has happened in accordance with the rules of the old fairytales: If a sovereign does not feel like concerning himself with the state, a Most Important Adviser springs up at his side without fail.

Russia: Presidential Staff Investigation Rejects TIME 'Sources'

MM2008183496 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 1

["President" column report: "What an Investigation of the 'Sources' Revealed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the light of the claims about the Russian Federation president's state of health published in the recent issue of TIME magazine under the heading "Exclusive," the Russian Federation Presidential Staff has investigated the "sources" on which the U.S. weekly's report is based.

This investigation has established that there are no documents with the index numbers or numbering system mentioned in the article either at the Russian Federation Presidential Staff or the Central Clinical Hospital.

The system which services the Presidential Staff has not had and does not have a physician with the surname and initials mentioned by the magazine. No specialist with this surname has ever been asked to provide consultations with or examinations of the Russian Federation president.

In view of this, the TIME article, which is based on information from nonexistent sources, graphically shows once again the need for a cautious and sensitive approach to topics of this kind, and at the very least a thorough investigation of "documents" and various claims by journalists so as not to mislead the public.

Russia: Speculation Swells Over State of Yeltsin's Health

MK2008142596 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Natalya Kalashnikova: "The President Prefers Moscow Suburbs to the Swiss Alps"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to the AP agency, the influential U.S. weekly TIME published a report on the state of health of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. An informed source quoted by the magazine said that the condition of the Russian president is such that the Kremlin is secretly discussing the question of placing him in a Swiss clinic for a thorough examination and possibly an operation. In a prompt reaction to the publication, the president's Press Secretary Sergey Yastrzhembskiy stated that this report "fits into the campaign of panicky rumors and speculation about the president's health." [passage omitted] It should be noted that the new wave of rumors and speculation about Yeltsin's health began to swell under the impression of the curtailed inauguration ceremony that was conducted blatantly at odds with

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the original scenario. The president's rare appearances on TV in the recent period, the rescheduling of a series of meetings, and the still undecided question about the place and term of the president's vacation, along with statements by the press service that Yeltsin is "in a good working shape" and at the same time that he is undergoing a general medical checkup on an outpatient basis [prokhodit dispanserizatsiyu] only heightened interest in this delicate problem. Meanwhile, reliable information about Boris Yeltsin's health is still out of bounds, which naturally leads to "panicky rumors and speculation." Moreover, not only in the press but also in the opposition camp (which gives it grounds for political speculation) and in the business community: It is well known how promptly and cynically the financial market reacts to such rumors. And the comment by the [presidential] press service can hardly compensate for the absence of such information: Sergey Yastrzhembskiy yesterday stressed that Yeltsin is going through a scheduled medical examination; that his plans do not include traveling abroad or visiting any state, and that the president is outside Moscow, continuing to work hard.

[Article is accompanied by following boxed passage]

The President's Health and Foreign Investments

The Russian financial market has always painfully reacted to reports of Boris Yeltsin's deteriorating health. This primarily refers to those market segments where the share of foreign investors is high: corporate securities and dollar-denominated bonds. Thus, last October quotations of Russian stocks fell, literally within hours, by 4 percent, following news of Yeltsin's hospitalization. Yesterday, however, relative calm remained on the financial market. According to Moscow traders the role of a cushion was played by REUTER's report that Boris Yeltsin is still in the Kremlin and continuing to work in a normal mode. True, market makers do not rule out that reaction to the TIME publication might follow today. There are several factors in favor of this. First, Western investors will have more time to mull over the statements contained in the article (yesterday this was practically impossible, because the magazine's latest issue had not by that time reached Europe). Second, the mere appearance of the article — regardless of the extent to which the journalists' conclusions are substantiated — could prove quite enough to start investors selling off Russian securities. Especially considering that the president's health is the number one subject in Western financial circles connected with Russia. As soon as Yeltsin was seen drinking champagne and making a speech at the inauguration banquet, Russian stock and federal loan bond quotations began to grow.

Russia: Yeltsin Puts Lebed in His Place Over Kulikov Remarks

MK2008134796 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Dmitriy Kamyshev: "How One President Arbitrated Between Two Generals"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The conflict over Chechnya that flared up Friday between Aleksandr Lebed and Anatoliy Kulikov for a while pushed Chechnya itself to the background. Because the face-to-face meeting of the two opponents at the Saturday session of the Internal Affairs Ministry Collegium did not take place, the president was left to say the final word. And he said it, leaving both generals in their posts and strongly advising Lebed to attend to his immediate duties, i.e., to the settlement in Chechnya. [passage omitted]

Thus, the president, in effect ignoring the ultimatum by the Security Council secretary ("either me or Kulikov"), indicated to him in no uncertain terms that everybody should know his place in the Kremlin — even a person who, as Lebed likes to repeat, is backed by 11 million voters. At the same time he confronted the general with the extremely difficult task of combining the "unblocking of state buildings" (that is to say, the driving out of the separatist fighters) with a termination of hostilities (which is only possible if the status quo is preserved).

Incidentally, the general himself should have understood Yeltsin's position as early as Friday evening, when, according to news reports, Yeltsin asked Kulikov on the phone to carry on with his duties. This accounts for Lebed's refusal to come to the Saturday session of the Internal Affairs Ministry Collegium for a showdown in the presence of witnesses: Because the Security Council secretary had already produced the requisite public effect, a meeting with Kulikov, where resounding but unsubstantiated charges would have been clearly insufficient, was certainly not part of Lebed's plans.

True, the president's intervention will hardly be able to finally extinguish the conflict between the internal affairs minister and the Security Council secretary. Especially considering that this conflict has apparently grown into a full-scale cold war. According to sources close to the Security Council secretary, Internal Affairs Ministry unit commanders in Chechnya coordinate virtually all orders coming from Lebed with their immediate superiors and carry them out only if confirmed by the latter. Moreover, during the general's recent trip to Chechnya he was even refused police UAZ off-road vehicles, and Lebed's accompanying officers had to move about the territory in his charge aboard an army freight truck.

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This setup clearly does not contribute to a settlement in Chechnya. This is confirmed by, among other things, yesterday's report of an operation carried out by the interior troops to unblock the encircled checkpoints in the area of Minutka Square. According to the joint forces press center the operation was accompanied by the use of artillery, which ill fits into the notion of a reciprocal cease-fire that was agreed upon by representatives of the federal troops and the separatist fighters during their recent meetings.

Russia: Yeltsin Instructions to Lebed on Chechnya Reported

LD2008162896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1554 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — In connection with today's statement by the press service of the Russian Security Council which casts doubt on the latest instructions by Boris Yeltsin to Secretary of the Security Council Aleksandr Lebed regarding a settlement in Chechnya, the Russian president's press service has issued its own statement. It reads:

"The press service of the apparatus of the Russian Security Council circulated a statement today which cast doubt on the instruction given by the head of state to A. I. Lebed, Secretary of the Russian Security Council. This instruction further develops the decree by the Russian president of 14 August 1996 on additional measures on a settlement in the Chechen Republic and also the agreements signed in Moscow and Nazran.

In effect, in his instruction the Russian Federation president has formulated the directive for the talks that the Security Council secretary is now conducting with the separatist leaders. Its main points are as follows:

— The federal authorities have no intention of bowing to the separatist demands under fire from assault rifles and grenade launchers and in contravention of earlier agreements.

— The federal authorities are ready to conduct further negotiations, including negotiations on a stage-by-stage withdrawal of federal troops from the Chechen Republic, after the separatists lift the blockade of state institutions, roadblocks, and positions where military units are stationed.

The Russian president has asked that no comments should be made on this issue to the media until the matter has been discussed with him.

The deadline of 1 September, which bewildered the authors of the Russian Security Council Press Service statement, was set down in the decree by the Russian president on 25 June this year, which had been agreed with the apparatus of the Russian Security Council and contained an exact list of all units and subunits to be withdrawn from the Chechen Republic.

Instructions issued by the head of state, unlike his decrees, do not have to be agreed with anyone. If an instruction cannot be carried out in full, the person in charge of its implementation should report to the president."

Russia: Chernomyrdin Promises Full Support to Lebed in Chechnya

LD2008115896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1127 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW August 20 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin promised "all-round support and assistance" to Security Council secretary Aleksandr Lebed who was entrusted by the president with the settlement of the conflict in Chechnya, according to the government press service.

"It was stressed that while settling the situation in the republic it is necessary to take into account the territorial integrity of Russia and not to rule out compromises", it told Tass on Tuesday referring to a meeting between Chernomyrdin and the "power ministers" late on Monday.

The two-hour meeting focused on the situation in Chechnya and the peaceful settlement in the republic and "defined priority tasks in the bloc of political and military issues", the press service said.

"Special attention was paid to issues of coordinating activities between departments in connection with additional powers vested by the President of Russia with secretary of the Security Council Aleksandr Lebed", according to the press service.

It was decided that Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the commander of Russian troops in Chechnya, who is currently on vacation, will return to head the federal forces in the rebel republic after his leave is over, the press service said.

The troops in Chechnya are currently under the command of Konstantin Pulikovskiy.

Besides Chernomyrdin and Lebed, also participating in the meeting were Defence minister Igor Rodionov, Interior minister Anatoliy Kulikov, Security minister Nikolay Kovalev, Border Service director Andrey Nikolayev, Chief of Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov and Emergencies minister Sergey Shoygu.

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Russia: Lebed Doubts Authenticity of Yeltsin's Instructions on Chechnya

MK2108102696 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Kamyshev: "One General Is Not Responsible for Another"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having not ended one war, in Chechnya, Aleksandr Lebed has already begun another, against the presidential entourage. Yesterday the Security Council press service released a statement doubting that the latest presidential instructions to the Security Council secretary with regard to a Chechen settlement were prepared by Boris Yeltsin himself. The Security Council secretary proceeds from the fact that "nobody is allowed to manipulate the president's name," whereas, if fulfilled, some of the instructions would lead to the resumption of wide-scale military operations and derailment of the talks started by Lebed.

As pointed out in the Security Service statement, Lebed "had absolutely nothing to do" with preparing the instructions, the text of which, bearing a facsimile of Yeltsin's signature, came to the Security Council secretary 20 minutes before they were made public by the presidential press secretary (KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported this yesterday). In the meantime, the fulfillment of some of them, in particular those pertaining to restoring in Groznyy the law and order system which existed on 5 August and unblocking government institutions and checkpoints, "signifies in effect the start of wide-scale military operations involving committing to action additional reserves and employment of aviation and artillery," which would inevitably entail numerous casualties and a "justified eruption of indignation all over the country." Therefore, the contents of the documents "compiled behind the back" of General Lebed, in the opinion of the press service, "provide weighty grounds to doubt that the president took part personally in the final editing of the text of the instructions." As is stressed in the statement, the Security Council secretary "insists on receiving clarifications from corresponding officials."

The general confirmed at the same time that he will submit by 26 August a comprehensive plan of settlement for Chechnya and report to Yeltsin "on the degrees of responsibility of the officials guilty of the Groznyy tragedy," expressing at the same time the hope that "his further proposals will not meet with the same fate as his first one, addressed to the president at a recent press conference." It is, however, unclear from the statement whether Lebed will act on his immediate superior's instructions or whether he will await "corresponding clarifications."

Lebed's second verbal attack on his colleagues in the top echelons of power within the past few days is remarkable on two counts. First, the Security Council secretary made it understood once again that he is still not free in his actions with regard to Chechnya, for which reason he cannot be held responsible for the disruption of the peacekeeping mission. Second, the general would hardly have risked making such a statement had he been sufficiently confident that the above instructions were really given by the president. In light of the new rumors surrounding Yeltsin's condition, this variant appears rather plausible. However, the form in which he expressed his opinion (through the press service) leaves the general an opportunity, in the event of trouble, to announce that the statement was prepared "behind his back."

As for Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of the federal group [of forces] in Chechnya, he has no such doubts. At any rate, he has begun fulfilling the president's instructions given to the Security Council secretary without any commands from the top. Monday evening, the general asked civilians to leave Groznyy by a special corridor within 48 hours. After this deadline, according to his words, he "reserves the right to use available forces and assets, including bomber and ground-attack aviation, as well as multiple rocket launchers and artillery to deliver strikes at places where fighters are and at their positions." Naturally, the commander has placed the entire responsibility for the possible consequences on separatist leaders.

Pulikovskiy explained in an INTERFAX interview that he no longer intends to accept "the brazen and barbarian actions of the unlawful formations" and thinks that it is possible to resolve the situation in Groznyy "only by forceful methods," because he has "nothing to discuss" with Aslan Maskhadov. The general intends to liquidate the fighters who penetrated the city within a month. The commander did not say what was going to remain by that time of the capital of Chechnya, toward whose rebuilding Moscow invested big money.

Pulikovskiy's ultimatum sparked a unanimous reaction from the official Chechen authorities: in their view, it is impossible within two days to remove from the city 200,000 residents who also have no communications facilities and who have no idea of the coming storming, and bombings of Groznyy would inevitably result in civilian deaths. Lebed, who plans to fly to Chechnya today, is probably trying to prevent such a course of events. Incidentally, he hastened to state yesterday that he has "nothing to do with what Pulikovskiy says or does." It is possible that the Security Council secretary could reach greater understanding with General Tikhomirov, with whom he used to serve in the same

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regiment and who, as was decided at a special conference in Viktor Chernomyrdin's office, will return to Chechnya after his vacation. The understanding may prove to be no longer needed by that time.

Russia: Lebed's Press Office Issues Statement Doubting Decrees

LD2008133696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1302 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 20 (Itar-Tass) — Russia's security chief Aleksandr Lebed today said in a statement that he doubts the authenticity of the latest orders on Chechnya bearing Yeltsin's facsimile signature.

The statement issued by the press service of the Security Council of the Russian Federation said:

"The text of the latest instructions with a facsimile signature of B.N. Yeltsin was received by the Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation twenty minutes prior to their publication by the press secretary of the President of the Russian Federation and he had not the slightest part in their preparation.

"The contents of the documents give solid grounds to doubt that the President of Russia took a direct part in finalising the text of the order, because the possible consequences of the ordered steps clearly threaten disruption of the talks begun by A.I. Lebed on the peaceful settlement of the Chechen crisis.

"Indeed, pursuant to the order the Secretary of the Council of Security of the Russian Federation is obliged: to restore the system of law and order to Groznyy as it existed prior to August 5, inst., i.e. prior the moment of the penetrating of the militants into the city; and to unblock the state offices and the bloc posts (road blocks-cum-checkpoints).

"This would mean in fact the beginning of a large-scale military operation involving aviation and artillery, as well as additional reserves, which would naturally lead to heavy losses among federal troops, massive deaths among the civilians who, as is known, have not left the city, and a justified burst of resentment in the country.

"Moreover, the paradoxical nature of these orders consists in the fact that, on the other hand, the partial withdrawal of the troops must be ensured already before September 1, inst.

"As concerns the presentation to the President of the Russian Federation of a comprehensive plan for the settlement of the crisis before 26 August 1996, despite the bureaucratic quagmire of required screening and the lack of coordination among departments, the Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation is confident that he would fulfil that order, as the plan was worked out by the Security Council in advance.

"Also prepared is a draft decree on the commission for material, technical and financial support of the measures designed to settle the crisis in the Chechen republic.

"The Secretary of the Security Council does not absolve himself of the duty to report to the President of the country on the measure of responsibility of the officials guilty of the tragedy in Groznyy.

"Suffice it to recall that the abolished State Commission failed to cope within the allotted period of time. Aleksandr I. Lebed hopes that his subsequent proposals will not suffer the fate of the first one voiced in an appeal to the President at a recent press conference.

"In conclusion, it is deemed extremely important to stress once again that the orders conveyed to the Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, which had been concocted behind his back and in circumvention of normal procedures, are depressing not so much by the way they appeared as by the lack of competence and haste in their preparation.

"The Secretary of the Security Council assumes that no one is allowed to manipulate on behalf of the President and insists on explanations from the appropriate officials."

Russia: Kulikov, Rodionov, Others Cited on Chechnya

MM2008111496 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 96 pp 1-2

[Feature comprising page 2 roundup, "prepared by Pavel Anokhin," of comments by various "state and political figures" on Chechnya, prefaced by five-paragraph introduction on page 1: "What Lies Behind the Words?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Open today's edition of the newspaper. On page two you will see the faces of state and political figures who are well known in the country. The editorial office asked them to express their view of the Chechen war. It is continuing to keep Russian society in a state of tension. People are asking the same painful question time and again: Will there be peace in the republic or not?

Aleksandr Lebed's recent visit to Chechnya, which inspired hope of a speedy peace, is being seen today as just a good intention. To be convinced of this you only have to familiarize yourself with the news agency reports for Sunday.

The war is not ending. The administrative, military, and political efforts are having no effect.

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Our people are nervous, and there is a great deal that they do not understand. The authoritative general who is minister of internal affairs and who was tasked by the president with imposing constitutional order in the republic and whose assessment of the Chechen war was being constantly cited by all the mass media even quite recently, has suddenly been described by another equally authoritative general as virtually the main culprit to blame for the war!

Our politicians cannot explain the essence of what is happening to the masses either. Their arguments and proposals (which are sometimes interesting and important) merge into a kind of stream of words which do not give a complete and clear picture either. But maybe we are wrong? Draw your own conclusions — read the roundup of opinions on page two.

Introduce a State of Emergency

Army General Anatoliy Kulikov, Russian Federation minister of internal affairs:

"After the signing of the Moscow and Nazran agreements the separatists headed by Yanardbiyev and Maskhadov were put in a very constrained position. The did not want to fulfill an agreement which promised them oblivion. And they sharply stepped up their road-mining war. And all this against the backdrop of an international meeting on combating terrorism which confirmed Russia's territorial integrity and condemned Chechen terrorism....

"In my view there is no military, strong-arm solution to the Chechen problem. There is only the political road. To this end there is a need for sensible political measures offering the chance of satisfying as far as possible the demands of all the sides party to the conflict while maintaining Russia's territorial integrity. This work must be calculated for a period of many years, but it must start with the introduction of a state of emergency."

The Military as Political Firefighters

Colonel General Igor Rodionov, Russian minister of defense:

"To uncover the reasons for what has happened it is necessary to analyze the situation not only in Chechnya but throughout the region, including the Transcaucasus. But be we are acting like political firefighters. In my view, there should be a state program for this entire region envisaging a set of measures designed not for just a year or two but for a protracted period. It should make provision for all the problems — political, economic, social, military, and security.

"Analyzing the situation, I have asked myself the question: Why are there government institutions and hotels in downtown Groznyy with representatives of the mass media in them? Because there is nobody and nothing in the city around them, virtually everything has been destroyed."

Control the Generals

Galina Starovoytova, State Duma deputy and co-cochairman of the "Democratic Russia" federal party:

"The root of the evil of the Chechen conflict at the present stage lies in the fact that in our country the military is not under the control of civilian society. Today it does not even obey the chairman of the Russian Government. As they wage their own war the generals act as they want, as they see fit."

Conspiracy Against Russia

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. State Duma deputy and leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia]:

"It is useless to talk about ending the war. And the introduction of a state of emergency in Chechnya would change nothing. What we are seeing before our very eyes is the implementation of a conspiracy against Russia, a plan whose objective is to violate the territorial integrity of the Russian state. In the Caucasus today a war is being waged against the whole of Russia and things which will subsequently being applied in other parts of the country are being rehearsed. Virtually a world war is already going on there.

"Think about the reason why the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation] mission is there. To internationalize the Chechen problem. Think about it. Could some kind of treaties or agreements be signed between Russia, Ichkeria, and the OSCE? Are there now three sides in our country? And UN troops could be introduced here too....

"Afghanistan led to the collapse of the USSR and Chechnya will lead to the disintegration of the Russian Federation unless we start acting in a well-gauged and resolute manner...."

Evidence of Treachery

Major General Ibragim Suleymanov, State Duma deputy from Chechnya:

"I am profoundly convinced that there is evidence of treachery in the recent events in Groznyy. It is worth thinking about why the guerrillas got into Groznyy without impediment and why their action caught the military unawares when it was being openly talked about.

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"In Moscow there are dozens of Chechen interest groups which go round knocking on the doors of various Moscow offices. Trying to get what they want. It has gotten to the point where any official from Moscow can make a telephone call to the republic and order the military to stop an operation and negotiate. You see, the whole of Chechen territory had been liberated from the gunmen, who had been driven into the mountains. They were given a respite and returned to warm and well-fed homes while the soldiers suffered in the mud and cold. The gunmen studied all the approach routes to federal troop positions and started firing again."

Diplomacy Plus Force

Vladimir Lukin, State Duma deputy:

"I am not sure that the Chechen problem can be solved by men in uniform, men with guns in their hands. The conflict in Chechnya is more a diplomatic than a military problem. It is therefore necessary to skillfully combine political diplomacy with a show of force."

"The operation carried out in Groznyy made the chances of an end to the war without two weeks illusory, unfortunately. It is now hardly possible to talk seriously about a troop withdrawal, which, according to the president's edict, should have been completed by the beginning of this September."

The Kremlin's Mistake

Ruslan, Khasbulatov, leader of the group of consultants to the Chechen opposition:

"As a minimum Moscow has to recognize that there is no legal authority in Chechnya. Invoking the legality of Zavgayev's power is the Kremlin's fundamental mistake. It is no more than a mirage. It is for this mirage alone that Russian soldiers and officers are dying in Chechnya today. This is also the root of the Kremlin strategists' incomprehensible tactics when, on the one hand, they talk about a truce in Chechnya while, on the other, they give the command of the armed forces in the republic a free hand to conduct military operations."

Khasbulatov Guilty Too

Hadzhi-Murat Ibragimbeyli, academician, doctor of historical sciences, professor, co-chairman of the "NDR" [as published; possible misprint for "NUR"] All-Russia Muslin Public Movement, colonel, and Chechen opposition expert:

"Can negotiations be entrusted to those involved in unleashing the war in Chechnya, Stepashin for example? You see, the Chechens were ready to sign a treaty with the federal center on the delimitation of powers, but Moscow installed Doku Zavgayev's puppet government in Groznyy. Unfortunately Ruslan Khasbulatov, who at that time was head of the Russian Supreme Soviet, is also to blame. He has now come to his senses and turned back to his own people, but Khasbulatov is one of the people who started the war in Chechnya.

"I believe that you cannot accuse Boris Yeltsin alone of unleashing this war. Others involved were the leaders of the North Caucasus region who sent the Russian president a letter in November 1994 demanding the restoration of constitutional order in Chechnya by any means, including military. A large share of the blame for the bloodshed in Chechnya lies with the leaders of the Western countries, who had an interest in this.

"It cannot be said that Dzhokhar Dudayev was absolutely blameless, of course. Having been victorious in the bloodless revolution of August 1991 he did not, unfortunately, take the road of democratization and material prosperity for his people and did not seek flexible paths of compromise."

Stop the Playing

Aleksey Arbatov, State Duma deputy:

"Since there are troops in Chechnya they should be provided with everything they need and not want for anything. Furthermore, it is necessary to stop this playing at negotiations — they can be held only with those on whom an end to the war and the establishment of peace depend. Not the elders, not the field commanders, not Doku Zavgayev, who can solve nothing by themselves. Negotiations should be held with Yandarbiyev and Maskhadov."

Bandits Are Not Partners

Andrey Kozyrev, State Duma deputy:

"The Chechen crisis cannot be resolved until there is unity of political and military action in the context of the presidential initiatives. Strategically they are right: Conducting negotiations which, when necessary, are backed up by specifically and precisely targeted strong-arm actions.

"In my view a more precise approach, avoiding chaos, should be taken to the negotiations. You cannot negotiate while calling your opponents bandits. If they are bandits they must be eliminated and arrested, but if they are your partners you have to negotiate with them as equals.

"At this time the presidential program can only be implemented by a strong political figure with the chance of controlling the power structures. And it is very right that Aleksandr Lebed has been given the opportunity to taste real power and real politics at first hand."

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War Is Business

Gennadiy Burbulis, State Duma deputy:

"War is a very tough business, a most cynical but profitable form of enterprise. And there are naturally many economic interests and big money involved in Chechnya. Including the drugs business, oil, and arms sales.

"This in no way means, however, that it is impossible to handle this infection here. In fact there is no secret about how to end the Chechen tragedy. First and foremost it is necessary to replace Doku Zavgayev as leader of the republic and withdraw the armed contingent while leaving behind troop units within reasonable limits. The viability of the republic should be restored without forcing the issue with any kind of referendums. But as yet the desire and political will to implement this has not taken shape."

Lebed in a Trap?

Sergey Yushenkov, State Duma deputy:

"In my view the escalation of the war is linked to the coming to power in Russia of Aleksandr Lebed, who has taken extremely successful steps to settle the Chechen crisis. He has started to implement his policy, but in Chechnya it is impossible to solve a problem in either two weeks or two months. I see what is happening as a desire to deep-six Aleksandr Lebed as a politician. You get the impression that some political forces are intensively laying traps to remove him from the political arena."

Russia: Rokhlin Discusses Views on Chechnya Issue

LD2008235196 Moscow MTK Television in Russian 1825 GMT 20 Aug 96

[Studio interview with Lieutenant General Lev Rokhlin, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, from the "Boris Notkin Invites" program; live or recorded]

[FBIS Summary] After briefly introducing Rokhlin, who has first-hand experience of military service in hot spots, Notkin asks his guest about what is going on in Chechnya and how it might end.

Rokhlin replies: "There are probably two ways out; a peaceful solution and the other way of continuing the war and trying to somehow resolve the problem comprehensively. Of course, a peaceful solution is preferable; to stop the war, to stop the killing, and to stop the misery. Even more so, since Russia is in such a difficult economic situation that it is unable, if it does not gather all its strength, to proceed along different lines. I fully support the fact that the head of the Security Council is in favour of a peaceful solution."

He then goes on to recall Dudayev's Chechnya: "Even then, terrorist acts were staged there and it was impossible to extradite those who happened to find their way into Chechnya and no one could administer the law toward them."

Rokhlin feels that if the withdrawal of troops is viewed as a final act and nothing else is done, events could develop in a most unpredictable way, sayhing: "If the troops are withdrawn, the opposition will try to eliminate its opponents in no time at all. They will have no problems holding either a referendum or something else to attempt to secede from Russia. Of course, Chechnya cannot survive in the territorial and economic situation it is in now. There is only one way out, to at least extend the sphere of its influence and its ability to influence to the nearby republics."

Regarding the issue of how weapons and ammunition are finding their way into Chechnya, Rokhlin says: "One looks at a pair of boots, they are Russian, and one examines a cartridge and it is from the same batch the Russian soldiers are using. One looks at an APC [armored personnel carrier]-90, which even we do not have, but it turns up in Chechnya. That is why it is very difficult to speak about where it comes from, to claim that it came from Dagestan and demand that the border should be fully closed and Dagestan be put in such a difficult situation."

He goes on to say: "I do not doubt that as soon as Chechnya is sovereign and without influence being brought to bear on it, there will be an influx of weapons there. This influx of weapons may involve all of Russia and there may be terrorist acts."

Rokhlin believes that there should be a state approach in dealing with Chechnya in future. He says: "This republic should be looked after, helped, and supported. If we withdraw troops, we should try to do everything to smooth away as much as possible the harm we leave behind there. I want to say again that one should be especially careful in one's attitude to what can be in the future and in order to prevent a conflagration, not just in the North Caucasus, but further on because Chechnya may in future, if no proper influence is exerted, turn into both a source of terrorism and a supplier of arms."

As to why he was recalled from Chechnya, General Rokhlin claims that the Army was utterly worn out by the trials it endured before Chechnya, saying: "Lets say the Army was defeated long before Chechnya. What is now happening in Chechnya is, to put it simply, the embodiment of the attitude to the Army." He goes on to say that departmentalism and nonprofessionalism is one of the major disasters: "How is this war being dealt

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with? The commander-in-chief did not visit Chechnya once. How is it possible?"

Rokhlin goes on to express his pleasure that Igor Rodionov is now in power and saying that, in Russia, there should be a single body over all the "power" structures. After pointing out the dire situation in the armed forces he questioned the number of generals in the forces, saying: "I cannot understand why in the times of the Soviet Union 100 generals were sufficient in an arm of the forces and Russia with its reduced borders now needs to have 250 generals in the same arm of the forces. Why is this? If it were a question of generals alone... but a general needs to have subordinates.... There needs to be a body that will do everything in Russia's interests alone; in the interests of its security, its defense, the solution of its problems, its economy, that is, in Russia's interests."

Notkin then goes on to read out questions from television viewers. In response to a question about what was determining the situation in Chechnya, economics or politics, Rokhlin said: "I think many things, including corruption in some cases. I was surprised that up to the very last minute, we were almost entering Groznyy, we continued to pump oil via Chechnya and explain this by the fact that this could not be stopped because oil pipelines might dry up and oilwells could not be restarted, etc. But it turned out there was no problem. We stopped it and no one needed it. After we seized the oil refinery it turned out that we could have restarted it but it turned out that somebody did not want it and it was not restarted. I do not understand many issues, including why there is no state approach to resolving the Chechen problem. It seems that everyone understands that there should be a unified authority in control and most powerful people should be there, people at the level of deputy ministers led by either a deputy prime minister or the secretary of the Security Council. There should be only one way out for them. It is Russia's problem, it is Russia's tragedy and until it is resolved no one has the right to leave [Chechnya]. One can leave it only if one resigns, or is dismissed, or the problem has been resolved. Unfortunately, this is not so."

With regard to IZVESTIYA interviews claiming that during the last offensive on Groznyy the Chechen fighters were assisted by the Chechen militia, Rokhlin points out that low professionalism was to blame here. He goes on to say that the internal troops were not the Army and they were assigned for entirely different tasks and actions and not for fighting.

Russia: Lebed's Deputy Chairs Observation Commission in Ingushetia

LD2008185296 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The first sitting of the observation commission that was set up after Aleksandr Lebed visited Chechnya was planned for today. The commission was to monitor how the sides observed the Moscow and the Nazran accords. And in spite of today's events in Groznyy, the commission held its sitting. It was chaired by Lebed's deputy Sergey Kharlamov who arrived in Nazran straight after a meeting with the Chechen headquarters chief Aslan Maskhadov.

[Correspondent L. Zhansuratova] An attempt by journalists to get information from the horse's mouth about the results of the meeting in Chechnya was unsuccessful. Sergey Kharlamov commented with a single sentence on General Pulikovskiy's proposal that Groznyy residents leave the city in 48 hours.

[Begin recording] [Kharlamov] Pulikovskiy is a military man. That's right, isn't it?

[Zhansuratova] Is he carrying out somebody's order?

[Kharlamov] I cannot maintain that. [end recording]

[Zhansuratova] Sergey Filipovich Kharlamov formulated the aim and main tasks of the commission that was set up on the initiative of Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed in the following way:

[Begin Kharlamov recording] One of the steps of Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed to generally solve the problems was the settlement of the Chechen crisis. We know that the president of the Russian Federation has taken his decision and revealed to the public his views on the settlement of this problem. This will be one of the steps that the Secretary of the Security Council will take as the plenipotentiary representative of the president in the Chechen Republic. [end recording]

[Zhansuratova] Before the commission started working its members, Sergey Kharlamov, deputy secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, and the secretaries of the security councils of the republic of Ingushetia Oleg Saurov, of Kabarda-Balkaria Yuriy Ketov, and of Dagestan Magomed Talboyev, met Ruslan Aushev, president of the Republic of Ingushetia. Journalists were not allowed to be present at the meeting.

[Video shows Kharlamov being met on arrival in Nazran, answering questions, at the meeting with Aushev.]

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Russia: Lebed Seen Launching Presidential Bid

MM2108100796 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 2

[Article by Stepan Kiselev under the "Snap Analysis" rubric: "Lebed Ordered To Swim in a Pool With No Water"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Sunday Boris Yeltsin issued a directive instructing Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed to "restore the system for ensuring law and order" in Groznyy to its state as of 5 August. In other words, to restore the capital of Chechnya to the control of Zavgayev's government. The task is manifestly impossible for a general without an army. But this was the president's response to the obstinate Lebed's ultimatum.

It is common knowledge that Boris Yeltsin does not understand the language of ultimatums. He usually listens to what his opponent is demanding of him, then does the precise opposite. So General Aleksandr Lebed, who at the end of last week confronted the Russian president with the choice — "either me or minister Kulikov" — is either a political suicide or an idiot. However, the Security Council secretary had not previously been seen as either of these, so it is nevertheless more logical to suppose that there is an entirely rational plan behind the general's insane actions.

As your IZVESTIYA correspondent learned from a source in the Security Council secretary's entourage, during his second visit to Chechnya Aleksandr Lebed received from Aslan Maskhadov documents compromising extremely high-ranking Moscow functionaries. It is precisely because of these documents that the general described the Chechen war as "made-to-order and commercial" and promised to name all its architects and inspirers at his next press conference. However, at the press conference he called immediately on his return to Moscow Aleksandr Lebed named only one person — Minister of Internal Affairs Anatoliy Kulikov. And on entirely different grounds.

The Security Council secretary accused Kulikov of not fulfilling the presidential edict placing the minister of internal affairs in command of the entire grouping of Russian troops in the Chechen conflict zone. To add to the drama Lebed growled: "The minister of internal affairs failed to fulfill his duty to Russia." However, even this bombast on the part of the general could not disguise from an attentive observer the obvious facts that 1) failing to implement a presidential edict is by no means the same thing as organizing a "made-to-order and commercial war," 2) Anatoliy Kulikov on his own is not the "all" whose names Lebed discovered in Chechnya and journalists were expecting to hear, and 3) the minister of internal affairs is clearly a figure of the wrong complexion to explain the criminal nature of the Caucasus war. In other words, there was a clear case of substitution. Obviously, while he was on his way from Chechnya to Moscow Aleksandr Lebed for some reason canceled his major sensation involving revelations, confining himself to a noisy scandal attacking the minister of internal affairs.

One detail of considerable importance in this affair should be noted here: On his return from Chechnya Aleksandr Lebed hurried not to the Kremlin to report to the president, as on previous occasions, but to meet journalists for a press conference. In other words, the general did not hasten to place before Boris Yeltsin the compromising material he had obtained, placing the fate of the officials named in the documents in the president's all-powerful hands, but attempted to play his own political game, stating irrelevantly that he "does not know how to be an official" and "is not gratified by fame as a secret adviser."

There is only one rational explanation for this political maneuver by the general: Lebed does not believe that President Yeltsin can (or wants to) change the situation in Chechnya, so, mindful that he has the backing of over 10 million voters, he appeals to the president on TV, summoning the whole world as witnesses of his Chechen peacemaking.

Thus the Security Council secretary, losing out to Kremlin courtiers in apparatus games, is gambling on public politics. Obviously Aleksandr Lebed is following a plan whereby it has to be conveyed to public opinion that he is a general without an army and, as the plenipotentiary representative of the commander in chief in Chechnya, is not empowered to give orders to the army grouping. In other words, the general has been made the "fall guy [krayniy] for Chechnya" and he has no means of defense except attack. In full accordance with his doctrine proclaimed earlier — "he who shoots first laughs longest" — the general is attacking Minister Kulikov while clearly not expecting to bring him down. The first target is merely in order to find the range.

It looks as though Aleksandr Lebed has made a discovery: The causes of the Chechen war lie in a completely different place from the one where they are usually sought. For a long time public opinion linked the Chechen adventure with the actions of an invisible "war party" of which Pavel Grachev, Viktor Yerin, Oleg Soskovets, Aleksandr Korzhakov, Mikhail Barsukov, and Nikolay Yegorov were suspected of being members. They are all now out of the picture. But the

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war continues. There is only one conclusion that can be drawn from this: The cause of the war is President Yeltsin's policy, not the intrigues of his favorites. Therefore stopping the war means stopping Yeltsin.

At the very beginning of his Kremlin flight Aleksandr Lebed made an extremely incautious statement to a DER SPIEGEL correspondent to the effect that he has every chance of becoming president of Russia before the year 2000. Clearly, this can happen only if Yeltsin is unable to perform his presidential functions for health reasons. Today, after the report in TIME that Yeltsin needs a heart operation, the whole world is buzzing with talk of the president's state of health, and Kremlin analysts (admittedly in a rather different context), are already speculating who has chances of becoming Russia's next president. They are naming Viktor Chernomyrdin, Yuriy Luzhkov, and Aleksandr Lebed.

It is not impossible that Lebed, having the opportunity to observe the president at close quarters, has now drawn appropriate conclusions and has launched his new election campaign. In this context all his ultimatums appear cynical, of course, but by no means crazy or stupid.

Aleksandr Lebed realizes perfectly well that his political fate hinges on the Chechen war. His opponents also realize this — at first they did everything to ensure that the popular general became Yeltsin's ally in the fight against the Communists, and now they are doing everything to squeeze the overly ambitious general out of the Kremlin: Lebed has served his purpose, Lebed must go. This is the reason behind all the intrigues over the powers of the Security Council secretary: The general without an army has been thrown into Chechnya as though into a pool without water and ordered to swim.

That is the nature of the Chechen war today: The federal forces are fighting not against the separatists but in order to ensure that Lebed does not win the laurels of the person who pacified the Caucasus. Someone has launched a truly diabolical plan in order to remove the Security Council secretary from the political arena forever. First they dilute his powers: Lebed has the talks, Kulikov has the troops. Then General Tikhomirov, whom Lebed knows well, is sent on leave from the post of commander of the grouping of forces in Chechnya and his place is taken by Konstantin Pulikovskiy, a general who ought to be removed from the Chechen war if only on psychiatric grounds. Pulikovskiy's son was killed in this war, and so far as he is concerned any peace talks are a betrayal of his son's memory. And it is quite obvious that today the federal forces are wrecking even the fragile cease-fire agreements with the separatists which Lebed reached during his two whirlwind diplomatic visits to Chechnya.

The president is now demanding that Lebed "in development of the Moscow and Nazran accords" (that is, by peaceful means) restore Groznyy to the leadership of Doku Zavgayev. The latest news is that General Pulikovskiy has stated that if the separatists do not leave the Chechen capital by Thursday the federal forces will launch large-scale combat operations "using all available forces and means."

The general is crazy. He is prepared to turn Groznyy into Guernica [village razed by indiscriminate fascist bombing during Spanish Civil War] to prevent Lebed from concluding an ignominious peace. The new round of the war in Chechnya will probably open up a new round of war in Moscow too. The rebel Lebed will go to war against Yeltsin.

Russia: Lebed Comments on Defense Council En Route to Chechnya

LD2108134696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 21 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Aboard a Special Plane, 21 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Security Council, is critical of the recent proposal by Lev Rokhlin, chairman of the Duma Committee for Defense, to set up a coalition structure on the basis of the Security Council and the Defense Council to coordinate the actions of all power-wielding departments in the country.

"Why on earth do we need a coordinating body? There is a strict hierarchical structure — the Security Council, then the Defense Council. When we take them in hand, they will start working," Aleksandr Lebed said in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

The conversation took place aboard a special airplane that took off from Moscow's Vnukovo Airport at 1500 [1100 GMT] en route to Chechnya.

In Aleksandr Lebed's view, there are certain difficulties in forming the Defense Council apparatus. "It is a completely new structure," he said. "Essentially, it consists of a chief and no more."

The main task of the Security Council secretary's two-day trip to the North Caucasus is to try to unblock the situation in Groznyy. According to an informed source in Aleksandr Lebed's entourage, the Security Council secretary plans to hold an emergency meeting with the federal forces command, and specifically with Konstantin Pulikovskiy, acting commander of the group,

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who announced on 19 August his intention to storm Groznyy using aviation and rocket artillery.

Commander Vyacheslav Tikhomirov returned from leave on 20 August and is now at the federal group headquarters in Khankala, near Groznyy. ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Kipkeyev telephoned the command's press service from Moscow several times today but the press service refused to comment on Vyacheslav Tikhomirov's plans until the Security Council secretary arrives in Chechnya and meets with the military leadership. All that is known is that, per a government decision, he will resume his duties of commander of the temporary joint forces in the Chechen Republic in the near future, relieving Konstantin Pulikovskiy of this post.

A source in the Security Council secretary's entourage says that during his stay in Chechnya, Aleksandr Lebed will try to defuse the tension in Groznyy. Aleksandr Lebed views Konstantin Pulikovskiy's call to the civilian population to leave Groznyy within 48 hours before the town is stormed as an attempt to thwart the agreements reached in his meetings with the separatist leadership. The secretary of the Russian Security Council expects to submit a plan for settling the Chechen crisis to the country's president by 26 August.

Russia: Spokesman: Lebed 'Has Nothing To Do' With Pulikovskiy in Chechnya

LD2008154996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 20 (Interfax) — Russian Security Council Chairman Aleksandr Lebed "has nothing to do with anything Pulikovskiy says or does," Security Council spokesman Aleksandr Barkhatov told Interfax Tuesday, commenting on the statement made by federal forces commander in Chechnya Konstantin Pulikovskiy that civilians must leave Groznyy within 48 hours.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Senate Response to Yeltsin National Security Message

MM2108081196 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 6

[Federation Council Decree No. 326, signed by Speaker Stroyev and dated 8 August 1996, "On the Russian Federation President's Message on National Security to the Federation Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having familiarized itself with the Russian Federation president's message on national security to the Federation Council, having heard the report from the chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense Issues, and taking into account the recommendations of the 25 July 1996 Federation Council hearings "On the Concept of Russia's National Security," the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council decrees that:

1. The Russian Federation president's message on national security to the Federation Council shall be supported.

2. Concern shall be expressed at the state of the level of national security and the Russian Federation president shall be instructed to accelerate the preparation of the draft concept for the Russian Federation's national security.

3. The chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council shall be instructed to regularly brief Federation Council members on the progress of work on the aforesaid draft concept.

4. The Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense Issues and the Federation Council Committee for Constitutional Legislation and Judicial and Legal Issues shall be instructed to work with the relevant Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma committees on the issue of the joint elaboration of a draft federal law on the foundations of state policy in the national security sphere.

[Signed] Ye.S. Stroyev, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council
[Dated] Moscow, 8 August 1996
No. 326

Russia: Duma's Rokhlin Criticizes Neglect of Armed Forces

MK2108111196 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Ivan Rodin: "Rokhlin Demands Money for Army"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lev Rokhlin, Duma defense committee chairman (Russia Is Our Home faction) made a statement yesterday on the explosive situation in the army and cited concrete examples of life in various garrisons.

Mr. Rokhlin, incidentally, began citing examples by telling of an officer who committed suicide in a regiment of the 8th Guards Corps which the deputy commanded not long ago. The officer, Lev Rokhlin said, took his life over pay delays.

The Duma defense committee chairman stated that the situation in the army calls for intervention on the part of

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both the authorities and society as a whole. He compared it with a "powder magazine around which they are kindling fire." According to the information of the Duma defense committee, the federal budget has run up a debt to the armed forces of more than 15 trillion rubles as of 19 August. The general and deputy is incensed at the fact that the strength of, for example, the internal troops equals that of the ground troops, that the border guards have doubled the number of their generals, and that the Ministry of Emergency Situations is trying to increase its strength by another 20,000 men.

Deputy Rokhlin said that he was not against all the other power structures, that he would like to see that all of them — including the Armed Forces — have a single command and control body under the president. Nevertheless, Mr. Rokhlin was rather critical of the Defense Council, stressing that in order to create it a slice of powers was wrenched away from the Security Council.

The lack of coordination or of a coordinator of the power structures, in the opinion of Lev Rokhlin, is one of the reasons for the conflict between Aleksandr Lebed and Anatoliy Kulikov. The deputy hinted that once the president gave the necessary powers for solving the Chechen problems to the former, the other leaders of the structures doing the same job should have obeyed him unquestioningly. Although Mr. Rokhlin is always stressing that the most important thing is not names but the principle, he nevertheless, had to confirm that when he commanded the Northern Group of Federal Forces in Chechnya, MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] troops did not take orders from him.

Lev Rokhlin proposed several measures which, to his mind, would make it possible to begin solving all of the army's problems. All of them relate to funds: to settle the budget debts to the Army, to revise the appropriations for the Defense Ministry in the last quarter of 1996 and up their share in the 1997 budget to at least 5.1 percent of GDP, and to provide funds for the army reform. The defense committee chairman also proposed "to create a real body that should have power over all the power structures and be able to moderate the ambitions of individual leaders."

Regional Affairs

Russia: Pulikovskiy Repeats Warning for Civilians To Leave Groznyy

LD2008152396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1505 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 20 (Itar-Tass) — Commander of federal troops in Chechnya General Konstantin Pulikovskiy said on Tuesday that he would not change his decision giving all Groznyy residents 48 hours to leave the city.

The general reiterated his stance in a telephone conversation with Aslambek Buchulayev, deputy plenipotentiary of the Moscow-backed Chechen government to Moscow.

Replying to Buchulayev's query whether it is possible to warn all the residents when Groznyy is deprived of electricity supplies, Pulikovskiy allegedly said "it is their problem," according to the diplomat.

Earlier today, an Itar-Tass correspondent reported from the Chechen capital that Russian helicopters has been dropping over the city leaflets with Pulikovskiy's warning.

The leaflets warn that federal forces may storm Groznyy's central areas in which Chechen rebels have entrenched.

Russia: Pulikovskiy Not To Back Down on Groznyy Ultimatum

LD2008170896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 20 (Interfax) — Acting commander of the Russian forces in Chechnya Konstantin Pulikovskiy does not intend to back down on his ultimatum to Groznyy residents to leave the city within 48 hours, he said during a telephone conversation with Aslambek Buchuyev, deputy representative of the pro-Zavgayev mission in Moscow.

Sources in the Moscow-based Chechen mission told Interfax that when asked how he plans to inform people hiding in basements of the ultimatum, Pulikovskiy said: "This is not my problem."

Russia: Pulikovskiy 'Planning To Kill' Thousands of Civilians

LD2008154896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1524 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 20 (Interfax) — The commander of federal forces in Chechnya is virtually planning to kill tens of thousands of civilians in Groznyy, spokesman for the Chechen mission under the Russian president Timur Muzayev told a news conference in Moscow Tuesday [20 August].

"Tens and even hundreds of thousands of civilians are staying in basements without communications and electricity, who do not have a notion about the ultimatum," Muzayev said.

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The commander of federal forces in Chechnya, Konstantin Pulikovskiy, had stated on Monday that all civilians could leave Groznyy within 48 hours starting on Tuesday morning, after which federal troops will use all arms available against the remaining separatists.

It is impossible to evacuate 200,000 civilians from the city within the given deadline, Muzayev argued.

Only a little over 40,000 refugees have left Groznyy during recent weeks, Chechen separatists estimate.

In addition, "all the Russian military's talks about humanitarian corridors are nothing but showing off," he said.

The residents of the Zavodskiy, Staropromyslovskiy and Katayama districts cannot get to any of the corridors, because they would have to cross areas of intensive fighting, Muzayev said.

Prior to this, the federal command had opened two corridors for evacuation of civilians, one heading toward the city of Argun and the other one toward the village of Staraya Sunzha. All other directions will be either blocked or mined, Pulikovskiy warned.

Pulikovskiy, Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov and Interior Troop Commander Anatoliy Shkirko may trigger off large-scale military operations, Muzayev warned.

"The side that will unleash large-scale military operations in Groznyy will inevitably bear responsibility for the murder of tens of thousands of civilians," he stated.

Russia: Official Says About 250,000 Civilians Remain in Groznyy

LD2108103096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 21 Aug 96

[By Igor Zhukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 21 (Itar-Tass) — About 250,000 civilians remain in Groznyy, according to Valeriy Borshchev, the chairman of the Public Chamber on Human Rights of the Russian president's political consultative council.

He said the storming of Groznyy promised by commanders of federal forces will result in mass-scale deaths of civilians.

Borshchyov, who is a parliament member, said many of Groznyy residents hiding in basements do not even know about the military command's calls on them to leave the city.

"Neither buses, nor even lorries have been provided to the residents of Groznyy, not to speak of a safe corridor for their leaving the city," Borshchev said.

A full-scale storming of Groznyy with inevitable civilian victims would completely wreck what peace talks there were and protract the war for years, he said.

Talks of security chief Aleksandr Lebed with rebel leaders and Chechen eledermen is the only way out of the crisis, Borshchev said.

Russia: Federal Troops Close Corridor for Refugees Leaving Groznyy

LD2008151396 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1452 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1750 Russian troops closed the only humanitarian corridor for refugees leaving Groznyy in the settlement of Staraya Sunzha in the city's northeast.

Moscow Echo radio station has learned from the Chechen permanent mission under the president of the Russian Federation that tens of thousands of people have accumulated at the checkpoint there.

Russia: OSCE Mission Leaves Groznyy; Guldimann Leaves Moscow

LD2108083096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0819 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 21 (Interfax) — The entire OSCE assistance group in Chechnya has left Groznyy, a Swiss diplomat told Interfax in Moscow Wednesday.

Switzerland is the current chair of the OSCE.

The head of the assistance group, Tim Guldimann, had arrived in Moscow Tuesday, supposedly to hold consultations, and left for Switzerland Wednesday morning, the source said.

The remaining three officers of the assistance group left Groznyy Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning and are either on the western border of Chechnya, or in the neighboring republic of Ingushetia, the diplomat said.

The OSCE officers will remain close to Chechnya in order to return when the situation there is clear, he said.

The diplomat reiterated the readiness of the OSCE group and its leader, Tim Guldimann, to continue settlement efforts in Chechnya.

Guldimann will then leave Switzerland for Austria where the OSCE headquarters are and then return to Moscow in two or three days, the diplomats said.

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Russia: Groznyy Situation Reported; Militants Planning Action

LD2108064996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0543 GMT 21 Aug 96

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Kipkeyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 August (ITAR-TASS) — According to military intelligence, in the next few days the militants may carry out a number of terrorist and sabotage acts in Dagestan's regions bordering on Chechnya, an official spokesman of the Internal Troops Headquarters of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs told ITAR-TASS today.

The source said that the situation in Groznyy and its outskirts had not deteriorated overnight or early this morning. Two servicemen of the Internal Troops have been killed and nine wounded by shooting.

The source said that late yesterday evening "an influential field commander of the separatists" had been wounded. Radio intercept showed that all night long the militants had been trying to find a surgeon, an anaesthetist, and nurses. The name of the wounded person has been kept secret. The separatists, surrounded by a triple ring around Groznyy, have started to experience a shortage of food and ammunition, according to the military.

Russia: Journalist Analyzes Lebed's Influence on Groznyy Situation

LD2008203596 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Aug 96

[Interview with Aleksandr Zhilin, military analyst of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, by correspondent Yelena Sandomirskaya in Moscow; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zhilin] The war in Moscow for achieving peace in Chechnya is indeed being exacerbated to the utmost degree. At least when the document was issued — signed by the Russian president — saying that the situation in Groznyy [concerning the system of ensuring law and order] was to be restored as of 5 August, its first point was aimed at carrying out wide-scale hostilities; whereas the second point said that peace talks were to be carried out and escalation was to be prevented and so on and so forth — these two points, which are contradictory, show that there are people in the Kremlin who are not objectively interested in settling the situation.

[Sandomirskaya] Why has the situation developed this way? Lebed, who was given extraordinary powers to settle the Chechen crisis, cannot influence the military leadership in Chechnya.

[Zhilin] The Groznyy-based military forces are carrying out the task they were sent to do from here, from Moscow. I, myself, also was a serviceman not a long time ago and I can assure you that a general at any level, beginning from the defense minister, will not make any decision whatsoever if he has not been given a political instruction to do so. This is why we are talking about Lebed's influence on the situation in Chechnya being blocked. What is Lebed's biggest merit so far? He has made an attempt to build a vertical hierarchy to manage the situation in Chechnya. This has scared many people, because the vertical hierarchy, which means strict management, also means personal responsibility for both the material means that are being wasted and the colossal losses we are having there, too. In the near future we will see a very aggressive attack aimed at the secretary of the Security Council. He is having a brush with the interests of the clans who will stop at nothing.

[Sandomirskaya] Could you say who might attack Lebed?

[Zhilin] Those in the president's administration, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and even Zavgayev's team and directly some generals who are in command of the federal forces in Chechnya.

Russia: Tikhomirov Returns to Groznyy; Promises 'Serious Measures'

LD2008174096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Aug 20 (Interfax) — Lt. Gen. Vyacheslav Tikhomirov on Tuesday evening returned to the Chechen capital of Groznyy after a vacation, in order to retake command of the Russian federal troops in Chechnya.

Tikhomirov's key goal as the Russian federal troops' commander was "to free Groznyy from separatist militants," he told Interfax in Khankala on the outskirts of Groznyy.

"We are ready to use all available means, including both political means and the use of force, for this purpose," he said.

Tikhomirov said he had not so far annulled the ultimatum put forward by Konstantin Pulikovsky, acting commander of the Russian federal troops in Chechnya, under which all Groznyy civilians must leave the Chechen capital within 48 hours.

He said he was currently examining the situation in the Chechen capital.

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"I can only say that serious measures will be taken against the separatists if they do not leave Groznyy," Tikhomirov said.

Russia: General Staff Has 'Disagreements' on Timing Groznyy Assault

MM2008142696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Differing Views About Groznyy in the General Staff: Bomb It Straightway Or Wait a While"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are disagreements within the General Staff about how it is realistically possible to restore the situation that existed prior to 6 August, which is the task that President Boris Yeltsin set Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Security Council and his plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent reports from Groznyy that Lieutenant General Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of the joint grouping of federal forces in Chechnya, has made a statement that sounded like an ultimatum to the Chechen formations: The gunmen must quit the city over the 48 hours from 1000 hours on 20 August. The general also called on Groznyy's population to leave the city within the same deadline. After this he reserves the right to use available forces and means, including bombers and ground-attack aircraft, multiple-launch rocket systems, and artillery, to strike against places where there are gunmen and their positions. And since in practice the gunmen occupy the whole of Groznyy, this means — strike against the whole city.

Some of my interlocutors at the General Staff assert that the task set by the president should be fulfilled immediately, as soon as Pulikovskiy's ultimatum expires, since in 10 days of fighting the gunmen have substantially used up their ammunition and have not been able to fully restock. Others said that a serious operation like another liberation of Groznyy should be more thoroughly prepared. Reserves should be moved up, all possible scenarios for the development of the situation should be carefully planned, and efficient collaboration between the troops of all power departments should be organized....

Of course, advocates of this method of carrying out the combat operation say, meanwhile the gunmen will be able to substantially fortify their positions and it will be more difficult to smoke them out, but on the other hand our losses will be smaller and at the same time we will be able to thoroughly smash the main forces of the bandit formations.

My interlocutors see no peaceful way of solving the problem. Somebody has got to leave Groznyy, they say: Either us, or the gunmen.

This means that they will not stint on ordnance or bother about casualties. Neither on our side, nor on the other side, nor among those among the peaceful population who have been unable to leave the city or have been prevented from leaving.

Russia: Chechen Mission Under Yeltsin Criticizes Pulikovskiy Ultimatum

LD2008182596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Aug 20 (Interfax) — The ultimatum of Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of Russian federal troops in Chechnya, which gives residents of the Chechen capital of Groznyy 24 hours to leave the city "is actually a death sentence for these people," the Chechen representation under the Russian president said in a statement received by Interfax on Tuesday.

According to the Chechen leadership, Groznyy is now home to between 200,000 and 250,000 civilians who have failed to leave the blockaded city, the statement reads.

"The 48 hours given by the Russian federal command are obviously not enough to evacuate the majority of Groznyy residents," the Chechen representation said.

People hiding from shootouts and bombardments in basements and debris of destroyed buildings have no access to information and may just be unaware of the ultimatum put forward by Pulikovskiy, the Chechen representation said.

The "only operational humanitarian corridor" for refugees is situated in the village of Staraya Sunzha on the northeastern outskirts of Groznyy, the statement says.

Dozens of thousands of people living in other districts of the Chechen capital, such as Staropromyslovsky, Oktyabrsky, Zavodskoy, Chernorechie and others, are unable to cross streets where combat action is raging and will fail to leave Groznyy within the deadline, the statement reads.

"The destruction of the city on the eve of winter will result in the death and suffering of a further several dozens of thousands of people," the Chechen representation said.

"The Chechen representation under the Russian president urges the media, Russian and international public

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opinion to stand against the planned murder of civilians in Groznyy and stop the bloody slaughter," the statement reads.

Russia: Army Paper Says 'Verbal Barrage' Not Easing Groznyy Situation

MM2008190796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Gavrilenko and Anatoliy Stasovskiy: "Groznyy: The Thunder of Guns, a Torrent of Statements. There Is Not a Politician in Russia Today Who Does Not Want To Talk About the Situation in Chechnya..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are two types of barrage resounding continuously in Chechnya one after the other. One is a mortar-artillery barrage, the other verbal. As one dies down, the other intensifies. And vice versa. Now they seem to have merged into one. Paradoxical as it may seem, the verbal "artillery" also hits hard. Often it confuses everything and turns things upside down, sending (either intentionally or not) "shell after shell" onto its own people.

The whole welter of statements, appeals, warnings, and ultimatums raining down on us today almost by the hour from all sides may be considered the big guns in this verbal barrage. It is quite difficult to understand anything or identify who is playing first violin in this political orchestra. Perhaps only one thing is clear today: Even the most "radical" statements as a rule produce nothing radical. People have already become accustomed to them. As they have grown used to the conventional propaganda war in which the louder and more stridently you talk about yourself the better it seems to be. They say that even in this uproar there can be winners and losers. Evidently this is true. But that is not the issue here. The verbal barrage has totally confused the already complex situation concerning the settlement in Chechnya. You get the feeling that before each round of fire the federal servicemen have to present at last two or three ultimatums and statements of justification and reassurance.

The start of the week was marked by a wealth of information on the true situation in Chechnya and ways of resolving the crisis. Many people, including the Russian president, have spoken out. Boris Yeltsin has called for a return to the situation that existed in Groznyy on 5 August: The separatists' detachments should withdraw from the city and there should be a return to the fulfillment of the Moscow and Nazran accords.

Lieutenant General Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of the Russian Federation Interim Joint Forces in Chechnya, was among the first to respond to this. Without calling it an ultimatum he gave the residents of Groznyy 48 hours to leave the city along the corridor across the Staraya Sunzha [river] while reserving the right to use all available forces and means including bombers and ground attack aircraft, salvo fire rocket systems, and artillery, to strike at concentrations of gunmen and their positions when this deadline passes.

Russian Federation Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed made his reaction known immediately: He stated that aerial bombardments as a military method of resolving the problem will only serve to broaden the conflict zone even if the civilians are evacuated.

Wednesday the Russian Federation Security Council secretary is flying to Groznyy. But in a statement to ITAR-TASS Tuesday he stressed that the "settlement process in Chechnya will continue come what may. We must continue the settlement process regardless of anyone's personal ambitions — be they mine, Maskhadov's, Basayev's, Kulikov's, Zavgayev's, or anyone else's at all. People's lives are more valuable than ambitions."

The MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] expressed itself through the mouthpiece of Colonel General Pavel Golubets. The ministry is opposed to talks with the separatists. It views attempts at a peaceful solution to the situation as simply a means of satisfying the Chechen separatists' power ambitions.

At his news conference, Lev Rokhlin, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, also broached the Chechen theme. He sees the path to a Chechen settlement through the creation under the Russian Federation president of a single coalition body to coordinate all the power structures in Chechnya or through the transfer of all powers to the MVD.

But what is happening in Chechnya meanwhile? Fighting for position is in progress in Groznyy — first it subsides then it flares up. The gunmen's attacks have left six MVD staffers dead and 38 wounded. Russian Federation Defense Ministry losses stand at three servicemen killed, eight wounded. The armed separatists are ruling the roost not just in the outskirts but in part of central Groznyy too. In view of this fact and Aleksandr Lebed's conviction that the use of aviation and artillery is undesirable, it is not hard to presume that Konstantin Pulikovskiy's statement will not be backed up by vigorous and effective actions. But will the separatists offer concessions? It is hard to believe so. Thus to the sound of this mixed-caliber verbal barrage the intransigents will again achieve their aim — to "squeeze" the maximum military and political advantage from their presence in Groznyy.

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Russia: Military Source Outlines Russian Strategy in Groznyy

LD2008174796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1633 GMT 20 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 20 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — The federal forces will try to seal off the military forces of the Chechen separatists and their leaders inside Groznyy by setting up three rings of encirclement around the city and laying minefields, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by a source in the military command in Groznyy, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He believes that this is exactly what today's efforts by the Russian Armed Forces have been aimed at — they have been trying to set up the outer ring of encirclement around the city, where the rebels' main forces and their top leaders — Basayev, Maskhadov, Zakayev, and others — are now staying.

At the same time, according to information from the same source, the separatists inside Groznyy are regrouping their forces. They already possess six tanks. For the time being, these vehicles are scattered in different parts of the city but it is entirely possible that the [separatist] fighters will consolidate them into a single strike force when they try to break the ring of encirclement [around Groznyy]. It is probable, as the experience of Budennovsk shows, that they might resort to using civilians as "living shields" to facilitate their break out from Groznyy.

The sudden return from leave to Groznyy of General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, would appear to provide indirect confirmation of a possible change in the federal forces' tactics. The decision for the general to return was made at a meeting of the Russian prime minister with the heads of the power-wielding structures on 19 August. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today confirmed in a telephone conversation with Nikolay Koshman, the head of the Chechnya government, that "he is not inclined toward the use of the weapon of blind force in Groznyy."

Russia: Chernomyrdin, 'Power Ministers' Discuss Chechen Situation

LD2008132196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1254 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, AUGUST 20, RIA NOVOSTI — As has been reported today by the press service of the Russian Government, on Monday evening Viktor Chernomyrdin held a conference in the Government House which was attended by Security Council Secretary and Plenipotentiary Representative of the Russian President in the Chechen Republic Aleksandr Lebed, Defence Minister Igor Rodionov, Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov, Federal Security Service Director Nikolay Kovalev, Federal Frontier Service Director Andrey Nikolayev, Chief of the General Staff of the Defence Ministry Mikhail Kolesnikov, Minister of Emergency Situations Sergey Shoygu and other officials.

The Chairman of the Government heard the reports of the "power ministers" about the developments in Chechnya and in Groznyy, in particular, and the Security Council's proposals on urgent measures aimed at implementing the Russian President's programme for settling the situation in Chechnya.

As a result of the constructive discussions which lasted for about two hours, the head of the Government approved, on the whole, the proposals of the participants in the conference and named priority and concrete political and military tasks.

During the discussions it was specially pointed out that in settling the situation in the Chechen Republic it is necessary to take into consideration the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and not to exclude searches for mutually acceptable compromises.

Special attention was paid to the issues concerning the carrying out and coordination of the actions between the ministries and government departments with an account of the additional powers given by the President to Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed.

Viktor Chernomyrdin pointed out that the Security Council Secretary would be rendered all possible assistance for fulfilling the President's missions.

In accordance with the decision, taken at this conference, after his leave of absence from work Vyacheslav Tikhomirov will continue exercising his duties as the commander of the temporarily deployed joint armed forces in the Chechen Republic.

Russia: Yeltsin's Instructions to Lebed Cited

MM2008182796 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 1

["President" column report: "Instruction to Security Council Secretary"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the Russian Federation President's press secretary reported at his briefing in the Kremlin, B.N. Yeltsin has instructed Russian Federation Security Council Secretary A.I. Lebed to develop the Moscow and Nazran accords and restore the system of ensuring law and order in Groznyy which existed as of 5 August.

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The instruction envisages ending the blockade of state institutions, fortified posts, and positions where military units and subunits are stationed, as well as ending the military actions and continuing the peace talks.

The Russian Federation president has instructed the Russian Federation Security Council secretary to focus attention on the continuation and completion by 1 September this year of the phased withdrawal of forces and assets belonging to the Interim Joint Forces which are fulfilling the tasks of disarming all the illegal armed formations on Chechen Republic territory. B.N. Yeltsin has also instructed A.I. Lebed to present no later than 26 August this year the plan for the further settlement of the crisis in the Chechen Republic which has been discussed with members of the Russian Federation Security Council.

S.V. Yastrzhembskiy, the Russian Federation President's press secretary, reported at the briefing that Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin has issued another instruction to Russian Federation Security Council Secretary A.I. Lebed. In connection with the abolition of the Russian Federation State Commission for the Settlement of the Crisis in the Chechen Republic, the instruction speaks of the need to adopt and execute the Russian Federation president's 9 August instruction to the commission and to submit validated proposals on the measure of responsibility of officials appointed by the Russian Federation president for events in the Chechen Republic since 6 August this year.

The Russian Federation president asks the Security Council secretary to refrain from comments on this question in the mass media before he has discussed it with the president.

Russia: Lebed's Chances of Ending Chechnya War Viewed

MM1908192196 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Gavrilenko and Anatoliy Stasovskiy: "Will Aleksandr Lebed's Efforts Lead to Peace in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the umpteenth time there is neither war nor peace in Chechnya. But the situation today is considerably different from previous ones. The main difference is that quite a few of the advantages nowadays are on the side of the armed opposition. In material terms this can be seen in the fact that formations of gunmen are controlling a significant part of Groznyy, are openly announcing that they are going to storm the federal troops' main military base in Khankala soon, and are even issuing ultimatums demanding the withdrawal of the federal troops from Chechen territory within three days. Otherwise they are threatening to resume large-scale combat actions. It is not only in Groznyy that the situation is uneasy. Reports that federal troops have come under fire were received 19 August from Gudermes, Shali, Argun, Bamut, Urus-Martan, and Assinovskaya village....

In the federal authorities' camp, it seems, there is again no unity of views on the ways to resolve the Chechen crisis. Just yesterday Russian Federation Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed's lightning visits to Chechnya inspired hope of a fairly dignified and rapid end to the deadlock. But the main reason for the uncertainty which has reemerged is that Aleksandr Lebed surprised many people by holding Army General Anatoliy Kulikov, the interior minister, responsible for the failure to settle the conflict. It is a pity, of course, that these two energetic and responsible men who show concern for people's affairs have been unable to coordinate their positions on this vital state problem.

Undoubtedly what Aleksandr Lebed is saying now is on the lips of everyone in Russia: The war must be ended and as soon as possible. The Security Council secretary has already stated a number of times that he has a program of radical actions which could produce the desired result. People believe Lebed. Primarily because he has not yet given any grounds for doubting the consistency and sincerity of his intentions and actions.

There is also no doubt that Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov has made and continues to make considerable efforts to resolve the Chechen conflict. The acute disagreements between Aleksandr Lebed and Anatoliy Kulikov are a heavy burden on the shoulders of the already exhausted soldiers and officers of the Russian Federation's Interim Joint Forces in Chechnya.

Nevertheless, the war in Chechnya seems to be moving toward its end. From the very beginning of the conflict there has been no letup in the attempts to resolve political problems by armed means. There was a time when the sides sat at the negotiating table and the federal authorities held the dominant political initiative. But if you look closely you will see that the federal side never managed to make skillful or consistent use of its advantages and favorable positions. Every time something held it back. On the last occasion that factor was the presidential election. Before this, let us recall, there was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Victory Day, the State Duma elections.... Paradoxical as it may seem, it was the servicemen of the federal grouping whose resolute actions occasionally brought the separatists to the negotiating table. But something was lacking then — purposefulness, flexibility, sound arguments — it is difficult to say today. But what can be

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said is that now the armed opposition is "inviting" us to the negotiating table. You have to agree with Aleksandr Lebed that the options for breaking the deadlock are diminishing. Clearly, there is no longer any need to expect a particularly "dignified" solution.

Russia: Rokhlin Urges Single Body To Control Forces in Chechnya

MM2108110596 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Anna Golub and Svetlana Mentyukova under the "War in Chechnya" rubric: "While the Chiefs Are Having a Showdown, Their Subordinates Are Dying"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The conflict between Russian Federation Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed and Internal Affairs Minister Anatoliy Kulikov is continuing to agitate their fellow citizens.

At a news conference Lev Rokhlin, chairman of the Duma Committee for Defense, unequivocally stated that if a man (that is, A. Lebed) is given absolute powers, everyone has to obey him unquestioningly, "and not call various ministries for a second opinion." Nevertheless Lev Rokhlin believes that now is not the time to have a showdown but to channel every effort into putting an end to the Chechen war by 1 September. With this aim in mind, a Russian Federation presidential coalition organ must be formed, which all "power" structures in the country must obey. This organ must be given all the power, instead of powers being dispersed between the Security Council and the Defense Council. The war in Chechnya must also be ended because a critical situation has formed in the Army.

Pavel Golubets, first deputy internal affairs minister, held a news conference the same day. The general also complained about insufficient funding of the internal troops concentrated in Chechnya. The federal budget has allocated only 30 percent of the agreed-upon 560 billion. Analyzing the critical situation in Groznyy 6-13 August, P. Golubets said: Command and staff exercises in three population centers, where, according to reconnaissance information, the gunmen's main forces were concentrated, were scheduled for 6 August. But from what the general said, the information was leaked.

Pavel Golubets believes that the main reason for the defeat of the Russian troops was the correlation of forces, which, in his opinion, was to the federal troops' disadvantage. According to the general's information, in the first few hours the enemy grouping fighting in the city numbered 2,000-2,500 men. The general's statement looks a little strange considering that there were roughly the same number of internal affairs staffers alone at that moment in Groznyy.

Meanwhile, Aleksandr Lebed has made a statement which says in particular: "The process of a settlement in Chechnya will continue despite everything. We must continue the process of a settlement irrespective of anyone's personal ambitions — mine, Maskhadov's, Basayev's, Kulikov's, Zavgayev's, or anyone else's. People's lives are more precious than ambitions."

Russia: Chechnya's Zavgayev 'Prepared for Early Elections'

MM2008192096 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 1

[Interview with Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Republic, by Pavel Anokhin, in Moscow on 20 August: "Chechen Leader Agrees to Early Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

From the News Conference

Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Republic, who is currently in Moscow, has launched into strenuous activity. He has held long meetings with Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government, and Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Federation President's Security Council. Yesterday Chechnya's official leader held a news conference, after which he gave a snap interview specially to ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI.

[Anokhin] Doku Gapurovich, how do you react to the suggestions of some politicians in the capital that you should resign? They believe that the peace talks in Chechnya should be held with those people who have real influence in the republic. But your government is not counted among them.

[Zavgayev] These politicians should begin by making it clear: What do they mean by real influence? Surely not the action of bandits armed to the teeth who burst into cities at dawn breaking into apartments and robbing and killing people? If this is a political opposition then it should operate by political methods within the framework of the Constitution — it should take part in elections, hold rallies, and campaign. But in this instance we are dealing with those who speak the language of the automatic gun to unarmed people. Supporting them is a punishable criminal offense which will arouse nothing but condemnation among the people.

The federal center should deal only with the republic's constitutional authorities, including me as head of the Chechen Republic. The only talks that you can hold with bandits are those on the principles on which they will stop their bandit actions. There is not and cannot be any other way to strengthen state power in Russia.

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[Anokhin] Your government is often accused of squandering the resources allocated for Chechnya....

[Zavgayev] There is nothing to squander — there is no money. This year we are receiving virtually no funding despite the myths about the generous cash injections into the republic. Judge for yourself, Chechnya has been allocated 2.7 trillion rubles [R] this year. Of that figure R1.7 trillion has been spent on the repayment of last year's debts and R700 million has been spent clearing the bank loan. Both these amounts of money were transferred without going through the republic. In fact we have actually received R500 billion — and this is mainly wages. It was a different matter last year when the present constitutional organs did not exist in Chechnya and the republic received R7 trillion. So those who are shouting "Stop, thief!" should direct their efforts elsewhere.

[Anokhin] How much truth is there in the rumors that the Chechen police have recently switched to the separatists' side?

[Zavgayev] This is untrue. There have been individual cases of treachery and cowardice, but on the whole the Chechen MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] is one of the few armed formations which has waged and continues to wage a resolute struggle against banditry in all its forms. [Interview ends]

Doku Zavgayev stated at the news conference that he will oppose the implementation of the broad-scale military actions by federal troops in Groznyy that Konstantin Pulikovskiy, acting commander of the federal grouping in Chechnya, has just announced. The head of the republic said that in conditions of a breakdown in communications, television, and transportation in the city it is practically impossible to remove all citizens to safe locations.

Speaking about peaceful methods of settling the Chechen crisis, Doku Zavgayev cited the "intra-Chechen dialogue" and the president's plan. In his opinion, Boris Yeltsin's edicts on amnesty for gunmen who surrender their arms and on material compensation for war victims are a good foundation for civil accord.

Doku Zavgayev stated that for the sake of peace and accord in Chechnya he is prepared for early elections, thereby confirming his administration's authority.

Russia: Chechens Emerge as Sole 'Victors' From Lebed-Kulikov Clash

MM2008103196 Moscow PRAVDA PYAT in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 1

[Andrey Petrov article under the "Focus of the Day" rubric: "Only the Chechen Gunmen Emerge as Victors From the Battle on the 'Field of Kulikovo'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed's news conference last Friday [16 August] was a "bombshell" whose fragments hit only his own men while causing quiet rejoicing among the leaders of the Chechen armed opposition.

Having just returned from his latest visit to Chechnya, the general hurled harsh accusations against Interior Affairs Minister Anatoliy Kulikov, whom he accused of having organized his surveillance. But that was far from being the most painful blow. The salvo which was intended to "wipe off" the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] chief shook all those assembled at the press center. Aleksandr Lebed stated that it was Kulikov who was to blame for the fact that Maskhadov's gunmen had twice — in March and August — entered Groznyy. Moreover, Lebed said that he would make his plan to settle the crisis in Chechnya public only after the president had made a choice between him, the Security Council secretary, and the internal affairs minister.

There is hardly any point now in going into the formal details of this conflict which has had enormous repercussions both within the country and abroad. No, Yeltsin has not accepted the ultimatum. Yes, the MVD Collegium has denied the accusations against its minister. But all these facts reflect the internal aspect of the conflict in the upper echelons of Russia's power structures. It is far more important to understand, if I may put it that way, the ideology involved in the attempts to solve the long-drawn-out crisis in Chechnya and the actual nature of the war that simply refuses to end there.

A perfectly clear conclusion can be drawn right now: Chechnya long ago acquired the features of a war that is not an internal or civil war but a war between peoples, an international war.

The successes of Aslan Maskhadov's fighters are due primarily to the fact that a large group of volunteers and mercenaries from foreign countries is taking part in the fighting on the side of Dudayev's supporters. According to reports from our source close to the special services, 500-odd Muslim gunmen from Bosnia, where they had been "unemployed," arrived in Chechnya just before the attack on Groznyy. Back home they had fought the Serbs, here they fought the Russians. "Wild geese" have

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flocked to Chechnya from Afghanistan and Arab states in the Near East.

You cannot fail to notice either that Tim Guldimann, chief of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Chechnya, wittingly or otherwise provided propaganda cover for Maskhadov's plans, having promised the Russian side that the [Chechen] chief of staff would soon be coming to meet with General Kvashnin, commander of the North Caucasus Military District. The upshot of that is well known.

At the news conference Lebed said that the war in Chechnya could be ended in 25 minutes. It certainly could be, but on one condition: If a most important point in the general's election program on resettling Russians outside the republic in well-appointed houses, constructed with the money which has been disappearing and will continue to disappear into the Caucasian "black hole," is met. It is agreeable to be a friend of the Chechens. However, it should not be forgotten that they are waging war against the Russian state.

In general, if you conclude that only Yandarbiyev, Maskhadov, and other leaders of so-called Ichkeria have emerged as victors from the battle on the "Field of Kulikovo" [punning reference to Kulikov's surname and the battle on the Field of Kulikovo in 1380, where the Russians defeated the Mongols], the news from Groznyy gives no grounds for high hopes.

According to the press center of the Joint Group of Federal Forces in Chechnya, shelling and armed provocations by the gunmen have continued in recent days. There have been 114 cease-fire violations by gunmen recorded since agreement was reached between Lieutenant General Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of the joint group of forces, and Aslan Maskhadov, the separatists' chief of staff. There have been 103 bombardments and 10 explosions in the last four days and the Chechens continue to mine the most important transport routes, including the road to Severnyy Airport.

Judging by radio intercepts and other sources of information, armed opposition detachments are preparing large-scale acts of provocation against federal forces and the civilian population.

Russia: Official Says Dagestan Blast Aimed at Finance Minister

LD2008175496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MAKHACHKALA, Aug 20 (Interfax) — According to one of the main versions of the Tuesday terrorist act in Makhachkala, the explosion was targeted against Dagestani Finance Minister Gamid Gamidov, a source in the Dagestani security service told Interfax.

Four people including Gamidov were killed and eight wounded when a Zhiguli car exploded near the Dagestani Finance Ministry at 9:13 a.m. Tuesday. The blast went off as Gamidov was passing by the car.

According to the source, the terrorist act was thoroughly prepared. "The number on the engine of the car where the powerful explosive device was planted had been filed away," he said.

The Dagestani Prosecutor's Office instituted criminal proceedings on the incident. The Dagestani department of the Russian Federal Security Service is investigating the terrorist act.

The source expressed doubt that an explosion near the house of Russian Muslim Union leader Nadir Khachilayev in Makhachkala Tuesday was targeted against Khachilayev.

"Firstly, Khachilayev was not home and secondly, the hand grenade was blown up too far from the gates of his house," he said.

Dagestani law-enforcement agencies have no grounds to suppose that the blast was aimed at intimidating or influencing Khachilayev in any way, the source said. "This could have been an act of hooliganism. There has been many such incidents in Dagestan lately," he said.

Economic Issues

Russia: Economic Security Chief Glazyev Critical of Government Line

MM2108101696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Nevezhin under the "Appointments" rubric: "Economic Security Chief Displeased With Chernomyrdin's Economic Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By an order within his own department, Aleksandr Lebed has appointed Sergey Glazyev, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia (DPR), as chief of the Russian Security Council Economic Security Administration. Sergey Glazyev's transfer to state office was prompted by the fact that, in his opinion, opportunities for public politics have been exhausted, at least in the short term.

Under the Law on State Service Glazyev is obliged to cease his duties as DPR national committee chairman. In farewell to his party colleagues, Sergey Glazyev subjected the activities of Viktor Chernomyrdin's government to highly trenchant criticism. He accused the premier of lacking the political will or desire to change the

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state's economy in accordance with the interests of the population and Russian producers, saying: "Blind obedience to foreign experts' recommendations and lobbying of 'our own' commercial organizations' interests leave no hope for a real change in policy."

While accusing the government and the premier of lack of will, Sergey Glazyev is offering the government support in the form of the Economic Security Administration, which in his view will function on the basis of powers derived from the presidential Edict on the Security Council. The new Economic Security Administration chief intends shortly to evolve criteria according to which it would be possible to monitor the government's activities in the economic field and, if limits are exceeded, to block decisions on security grounds.

Russia: Low Inflation Will Help Poor, Make Businesses Restructure

MM2008142296 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 1

[Article by Marina Kryuchkova: "The Government Starts...From Zero!]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to data from the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics, in the first week of August the consumer price index used to compute the level of inflation rose by a mere 0.2 percent. And last week it actually fell to zero! This sensational news arrived in the editorial office at virtually the same time as the news of the composition of the new government....

As a result the inflation figure previously agreed with the IMF - - 1 percent as month — in fact turned out considerably lower. The IMF was apparently not expecting this kind of performance from us. The Russian economy also set another record. For the first time during the reform years the cost of a set of 19 basic food products (the notorious "food basket") did not increase over the week but fell — by an average across the country of 0.4 percent, or 1,076 rubles [R]!

It is possible that to some people these tenths of a precent will seem like trifles not worthy of attention. Some people, but not you and me, who have still not forgotten the shock sustained in 1992, when the price of milk, sausage, meat, and other food products, not to mention consumer goods, soared several times over in no time and continued to rise by 25-30 percent a week.... It is no mere coincidence that inflation is called a "tax on the poor." Whereas someone with R200 million can use the money to buy property, pictures, antiques, or jewelry and thereby protect his money against devaluation, if you have R200 in your pocket there is no place for you to hide it from inflation. It will inexorably nibble it away bit by bit.... This is why news of inflation close to zero would appear to be bound to please people.

But you will have noted one natural law: The more successful the fight against inflation, the more rarely we talk about it as an absolute evil. And, conversely, you increasingly hear the view that at very low levels you start to get economic instability and recession. There are even economic models designating a lower boundary for inflation of 1-3 percent. We must not go below that, they say, since you will get so-called fibrillation, that is, economic instability.

There is no doubt a pretty realistic foundation to all these arguments. But for some reason I am reminded in this connection of the events of spring-summer 1995 which preceded the so-called banking crisis. The government undertook to strengthen the national currency and tried to divert the banks' financial activity away from speculative operations on the currency market toward investment activity. And what happened? In response there were mass accusations of stifling Russian producers working for export and thus of undermining the entire economy. In fact everything ended, as you will recall, with ruin for the "speculator" banks and the strengthening of those credit structures capable of providing real investment for production.

The situation today is similar — only for industrial enterprises. For the first time in several years they suddenly found themselves deprived of their normal fix of inflation. And it then became clear that they had to work on profitability, that profits, largely thanks to inflation again, had been inflated, and that most production facilities would have to be reorganized, for which they do not have the money, of course, since they often lack even circulating capital. In brief, they need to restructure, and this is often painful and agonizing. But there is no longer any way around this, unfortunately. And looking to low inflation as the cause of the current decline in production is like blaming a sick person for having a high temperature as well as a cough instead of giving him the right medicine....

So what medicine will put our ailing economy back on its feet? Judging by the recent government decree reducing the return on state securities, tightening the monitoring of tax revenues, and changing the procedure for payments into the budget, with the priority being given to wage settlements, all the indications are that the formula for this medicine is already known to the government. As for the low inflation level, may it be like a good low start for a sprinter — no more, but no less either.... Incidentally, sportsmen claim that if you start a race from a low position you achieve maximum performance quicker....

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Russia: Unemployment Tops 9 Percent in July

MM2008135496 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 1

[INTERFAX report under the "News" rubric: "Level of Unemployment in Russia Has Topped 9 Percent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The level of unemployment in Russia in July reached 9.2 percent of the country's economically active population. In June it was 8.9 percent. This has been reported by the State Committee for Statistics [Goskomstat]. The Goskomstat estimates that at the end of June 6.732 million people, or 67,000 more than a month earlier, were actively seeking work in Russia. At the same time the number of unemployed officially registered by the country's employment services stood at just 2.54 million people — a fall of 65,000 during the month. The level of the officially registered unemployed in July stood at only 3.4 percent of the economically active population against 3.6 percent in June and 3.7 percent in May. The Goskomstat estimates that for every registered Russian unemployed person in July there were 2.65 unregistered people who were also aspiring to jobs. The Russian Goskomstat points out that in July of this year strikes were held in 31 organizations or enterprises. Losses of worktime because of strikes amounted to 162,000 man-days.

Russia: Bankers Predict Disastrous Consequences of Production Slump

MK2108064596 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Bankers Warn"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia's financial and economic system is facing serious upheavals whose consequences could be disastrous, says an appeal by the Russian Association of Industrial and Construction Banks to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "If the currently emerging trends remain unchanged, we could soon lose domestic industries manufacturing many strategically important products, first of all in sectors determining the economic structure," the financiers think. At the same time, representatives of the banking community express their support for Boris Yeltsin's stance with regard to adjusting the course of reform, reviving domestic production, and accentuating the social orientation of the Russian national economy.

Russia: 'Deep Crisis' in Military-Industrial Complex Still Growing

LD2108103496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0948 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 21 (INTERFAX) — A deep crisis in Russia's military-industrial complex continues to grow despite the measures undertaken by the Russian government to end it, head of the economics department in the Defense Industry Ministry Vitaliy Vitebskiy told Interfax while commenting on results of the work of the defense enterprises in July.

He said the total volume of industrial production at the enterprises of Russia's military-industrial complex continued dropping in July 1996 and totalled 74.5 percent against July 1995.

The greatest lowering of industrial output over this month was registered in three branches of the defense industry: the electronics industry — to 61.9 percent, shipbuilding industry — 67.3 percent, and aviation industry — to 68.1 percent against July 1995.

The volume of production of civilian goods manufactured by main departments of the Defense Industry Ministry totalled 79.4 percent in July 1996 against July 1995, the volume of production of military goods — 66.3 percent compared with July 1995.

The number of workers of the Defense Industry Ministry fell by 13.5 percent in June 1996 compared with June 1995 and the average wage at the enterprises of the military-industrial complex did not exceed 551,000 rubles (ranging from 378,000 rubles in the electronics industry to 725,000 rubles in the shipbuilding industry) though it amounted to 837,000 rubles in the national economy, 927,000 rubles in industry and 614,000 rubles in the machine-building industry.

President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree in May, On Priority Measures in Support of Russia's Defense Enterprises, which provides for adoption of several measures to stabilize the situation in the military-industrial complex, Vitebskiy said. However, these measures have not yet brought any positive results.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Taiwanese Prime Minister Visits Crimea

LD2008133196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1305 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 20 Aug — Taiwanese Prime Minister Lien Chan paid an informal visit to Crimea on 19 August. In Simferopol, he met the Crimean Parliament's Deputy Speaker Anushevan Danelyan and the republic's Deputy Prime Minister Andriy Senchenko. The Taiwanese leader also made a trip to Yalta where he met the city mayor, Mykola Diskin, and visited the Livadia palace.

UNIAN has learned that Lien Chan will be in Kiev on 21 August where he will be awarded an honorary doctorate at Kiev University.

Yuriy Serheyev, head of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs information directorate, said Ukraine regarded Taiwan as a province of the People's Republic of China. This principle forms the basis of Ukraine's relations with Taiwan, and therefore these relations cannot be official without Chinese involvement, he said.

Ukraine: Kiev Denies Knowledge of Taiwanese Premier's Visit

LD2008150696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 20 Aug 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Aug 20 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry does not have any information as to a possible visit by Taiwanese Prime Minister Lien Chan, chief ministry spokesman Yuriy Sergeyev told a briefing in Kiev on Tuesday.

Ukraine sticks to the 'one China' concept and regards Taiwan as one of its provinces, Sergeyev said.

Reuters had reported the possible visit earlier this afternoon with reference to the first channel of Taiwanese television.

Ukraine believes that "all relations with Taiwan cannot be official and must be the same as with any of China's other provinces," Sergeyev said.

At the same time, he said that most countries of the world had economic and cultural relations with Taiwan. "Ukraine also establishes such ties, but not on the level of official relations," he said.

Ukraine: Missing Taiwan Official May Make 'Transit' Stop in Kiev

MM2008153296 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Yuriy Savenkov: "Vice President of Taiwan Who Disappeared Turns Up in Kiev, Where We Could Not Get an Answer, Either in Russian Or in English"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As REUTER reports, citing Taiwan television and the prestigious Taiwanese newspaper LIEN-HO PAO, Lien Chan, the vice president of Taiwan who mysteriously disappeared, has turned up in Kiev and even intends to meet with the head of the sovereign Ukrainian state.

A sensational report. After all, Ukraine has diplomatic relations with the PRC, which means it is obliged to follow the ritual: Relations with Taiwan can only be unofficial. Our correspondent Gennadiy Charodeyev called the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry from Moscow on 212-83-33 and asked them to comment on the situation. The people there, claiming ignorance of the Russian language and not wanting to talk in English, hung up.

We had to enlist some IZVESTIYA people who know Ukrainian ways. "The REUTER report that the missing Taiwanese Vice President Lien Chan has been found in Ukraine is a fabrication aimed at discrediting Ukrainian diplomacy," Yanina Sokolovskaya, IZVESTIYA's correspondent in Kiev, was told, in Ukrainian, by people at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry. As Aleksandr Persiyanov, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, said, "it is curious that such fabrications should appear just on the eve of the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Ukraine has no official contacts with Taiwan, which it regards as an integral part of China. No meetings are planned between Lien Chan and representatives of the Foreign Ministry or the presidential staff. According to the Foreign Ministry's information Lien Chan has not crossed the Ukrainian border." At the same time in a REUTER interview Valentin Adomaytis, head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Asia Department, did not rule out the possibility that "the Taiwanese leader could make a brief transit stop in Kiev"

After Taiwanese Vice President Lien Chan (who is also prime minister) had visited the Dominican Republic, where he took part in the inauguration ceremony of the president of one of the 30 countries which have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, he unexpectedly disappeared at New York airport on the way home, breaking away from a substantial group of journalists who were accompanying him. The world's agencies started a search for him, with zero results in the course of several

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days. Taiwanese Foreign Minister John Chang baffled the reporters: The vice president is on a three-day private visit to a "third country," which he did not name, but he hinted that the country has no diplomatic relations with Taiwan. An anonymous Taiwanese official hinted: We are most likely talking about France. Paris resolutely denied this theory. Those who enjoy guessing games offered various theories, and rumors swept through Taiwan: Hungary? the Czech Republic? Spain? The Taiwan News Agency also offered the following theory: We are talking about a European country which has a border with Italy and whose inhabitants speak German. Logically, it would be Switzerland. But is it really Ukraine?

Beijing's reaction to all these mysterious disappearances and appearances of the Taiwanese vice president is not known, but the sensitive stock market, as if foreseeing a deterioration in relations between the "rebel province" and continental China, has already reacted: Shares fell 3 percent. Especially since in the context of a certain thaw in Beijing's relations with Taiwan, Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui had proposed a review of the logic behind trade and economic relations with continental China. Taiwan, in his view, is already one of the three biggest investors in the Chinese economy, and Taipei should not be too dependent on Beijing, devoting more attention to other countries.

Observers are convinced that Taiwan, using its economic trump cards, is putting pressure on Beijing so as to escape from diplomatic isolation. Lien Chan's disappearances also serve this goal.

Ukraine: PRC Angry With Kiev for Inviting Taiwan's Vice President

LD2108085596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0826 GMT 21 Aug 96

[By Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING, August 21 (Itar-Tass) — Beijing today expressed a protest against Taiwanese Vice-President Lien Chan's trip to Ukraine.

Kiev University has awarded an honorary doctorate to the Taiwanese statesman and Lien Chan is travelling to Ukraine to receive the award.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China told Itar-Tass by telephone that Ukraine's permission to a representative of the Taiwanese administration to enter Ukraine is regarded in Beijing as a violation of bilateral understanding.

Judging from all appearances, the trip of the Taiwanese Vice- President came as a surprise to the Ukrainian Embassy in Beijing. "We confirmed to the Chinese side the immutability of the position of our government which recognises one China and Taiwan as its unalienable part," a high-ranking Ukrainian diplomat told Itar-Tass here today.

According to the diplomat, Lien Chan is visiting Kiev as a private person.

Ukraine: Cabinet Examines Chinese Trade Policy

LD2008201896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, August 20 (Interfax - Ukraine) — A concept of Ukrainian-Chinese trade and economic cooperation has been officially submitted for examination by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

This paper was endorsed by the Ukrainian side of the intergovernmental Ukrainian-Sino commission for trade and economic cooperation at its meeting in Kiev Tuesday chaired by Vice-Premier Anatoliy Kinakh.

According to the Vice-Premier, the draft concept provides for mutual settlement of accounts on a leasing and renting basis, deliveries of equipment, motor vehicles and spares to them on consignment, creation of joint ventures for the assembly in China of KRAZ trucks, as well as opening of a shipping line to link Illichevsk port in Odesa region with China.

An Iterfax-Ukraine correspondent has quoted Anatoliy Kinakh as describing China as "one of Ukraine's major partners." Trade turnover between the two nations reached $821 million last year, he said.

At the same time, the Prime-Minister pointed out a trend which has recently manifested itself towards a decline in Ukrainian-Sino trade turnover. "This does not meet the interests of the two nations," he indicated.

Mr. Kinakh described as "inadmissibly high" (around 40 percent) the share of barter operations between Ukraine and China, and said that this indicator should not exceed 22-24 percent. The Ukrainian Vice-Premier has also spoken out for repudiating mediatory functions of third nations (financial structures in the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the United States).

Anatoliy Kinakh declared for the development of partnership relations between Ukraine an China in the filed of the aerospace, machine-building, machine-tool construction, power engineering and military technology.

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Ukraine: Japanese Delegation To Discuss Chernobyl, Telecommunications

WS2108074796 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0352 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev — A delegation of Japanese businessmen arrived in Ukraine on Tuesday to discuss participation in the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant closure and in the development of mobile communications in Ukraine.

The delegation includes representatives of the non-governmental Basic Association, which is engaged in the attraction of funds and know-how needed for the shutdown of Chernobyl, and the representatives of NTT Mobil Communication Network, Inc., interested in developing mobile communication in Ukraine. The Japanese have offered to install mobile communication equipment in hospitals and ambulances.

Head of Ukraine's Ministry of Communications department for international links, Anatoliy Klikach, said the Ukrainian side will offer several investment projects to the NTT Corp. team. He pointed out, however, that cooperation with the Japanese is somewhat limited due to Ukraine's integration into the European mobile communications network, which is different from the one used in Asia, and to which Japan belongs.

During his Aug. 21-23 meetings with the President, Speaker of Parliament and Foreign Affairs Minister, Japanese MP Hakuo Yanagisawa will discuss the implementation of loan agreements signed between Ukraine and the Export/Import Bank of Japan in December, 1995. The Japanese loan amounts to $200 million, of which $150 million will be used to cover the budget deficit, while $50 million will will be applied to payments for Japanese exports. In particular, Ukraine will import Toyota ambulance vans for the Ministry of Health, electronic TV equipment for Ukraine's state TV-Radio company, bulldozers and Sumitomo trucks for ore-concentrating plants.

National Affairs

Ukraine: President Kuchma Names Peace as Greatest Achievement

LD2008193196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Aug 20 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma considers the maintenance of civil peace and inter-ethnic accord as the country's greatest achievement during the five years of Ukraine's independence.

"Unlike some post-Soviet countries, we have managed to settle conflicts by peaceful civilized methods," Kuchma said on national television on Tuesday evening in an address dedicated to the upcoming fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

"We managed to reorganize the former administrative-totalitarian system of management in a radical fashion during a rather brief period," he said.

Kuchma cited the adoption of the new Ukrainian Constitution on June 28, 1996, as an important achievement in this area.

The constitution "crowned the creation of a complete national state system, fixed our policy aimed at developing statehood as irreversible and laid down the foundation for a new constructive phase: Ukraine's development in the interests of its citizens," he said.

Sovereignty means "the maintenance of national identity, spiritual and cultural revival of our people," Kuchma said.

"Ukraine and its people have every right to a civilized, well-off life, and we will build it," Kuchma said.

Ukraine will mark the fifth anniversary of its independence on August 24.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma returned to Kiev from a vacation in Crimea on Tuesday evening. On his return to the Ukrainian capital he met with U.S. Ambassador in Kiev William Green Miller.

Ukraine: Court 'Forcefully' Disbands Donetsk Strike Committee

WS2108073096 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0352 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Donetsk, Aug 21 — In its fourth hearing the Donetsk oblast arbitration court ruled August 20 to forcefully disband the Donetsk branch of the workers' committee, better known as the Donetsk strike committee.

According to the court's verdict, the strike committee has been forcefully disbanded because it "violated the basic human rights of Ukrainian citizens" through its organization of rail and roadway blockades during the July wildcat strikes in the Donbas mining region, where miners conducted a three-week strike to demand several months-worth of unpaid wages.

Donetsk strike committee defense lawyer, Oleksandr Sarkisov, defended the committee's actions, saying the damage to the economy resulting from the strike would have been larger if the strike committee had not managed to control the miners.

The trial took place in the absence of the committee's head Myhaylo Krylov, who is now in police custody

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in Kharkov. The workers' committee has the right to appeal within two months to the Supreme Arbitration Court of Ukraine against the Donetsk court's decision.

Legal proceedings against Krylov are currently underway and may be completed within the week, according to a source in the Kharkov oblast prosecutor's office.

The source reported that Kharkov Oblast Prosecutor Mykola Kyrychenko is planning to place the entire blame for the July miners strike on the Donetsk strike committee.

"If the lawsuit of the Donetsk prosecutor is awarded, miners will appeal to higher judicial bodies with a request to revise the case," a member of the strike committee, Oleksandr Kalinin, said.

At the end of the investigation, the criminal case will be transferred to the General Prosecutor's Office.

Krylov was detained on Aug. 1 while traveling from Moscow to Donetsk, and he is currently being held in a jail in Kharkov. The criminal case against Krylov was initiated according to article 187-3 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine "on the organization or active participation in group actions violating public order," which stipulates three years of imprisonment, two years of correctional labor or a fine.

The investigation, which started in Donetsk, was transferred last week to Kharkov.

According to Yuriy Makarov, co-chairman of the Donetsk strike committee, Krylov "feels rather bad due to high blood pressure." This information was confirmed by Krylov's wife, Liudmyla Krylova.

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Belarus

Belarus: Justice Minister Holds News Conference on Referendum

WS2108072396 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0640 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 20 August — Valyantsin Sukala, Belarusian Minister of Justice, held a news conference at the National Press Centre on August 20. The subject of the news conference was given by him as "Constitutional Reform and International Experience and Practice in its Use." Mr. Sukala reminded those present that almost all modern constitutions regard the people as the only bearer of sovereignty and the source of power, and the referendum (plebiscite) is a form of the exercise of this power by the people. Mr. Sukala also said that referenda are widely used in the world. Among the European states referenda are used not only in Belgium and the Netherlands. The minister named the types of referenda (constitutional, legislative and consultative), adding that Sweden holds the record in the number of referenda (more than 300 over less than 200 years) and cited arguments of the opponents and advocates of this kind of voting. In Mr. Sukala's opinion, among positive aspects of referenda is that citizens start to feel involved in state affairs, there is a possibility to advance the ideas which are convenient for the majority, the level of legitimacy of such decisions is high, and they cannot be overturned. Among the negative aspects Mr. Sukala named the impossibility to make a compromise because there are only two alternatives — yes or no; the lack of knowledge and information about the questions put on a referendum; the disregard of the opinion of the minority; organizational problems and considerable financial expenses.

Speaking about the forthcoming constitutional referendum in Belarus, Mr. Sukala named a number of countries where such referenda are possible according to legislation: Denmark, Ireland, France, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Austria and Luxembourg. According to the minister, all the former Soviet republics have legal grounds to hold constitutional referenda. Mr. Sukala concluded that the forthcoming referendum "is legitimate, legal and those who call it a constitutional coup d'etat have no legal grounds to do so." "The President had the right to initiate the referendum," Mr. Sukala said. He told the reporters that according to Article 74 of the Constitution, if a referendum is initiated by the President or by the people, the Supreme Soviet should set the date of the referendum within 30 days after the proposal was made. "I would like to stress that questions of expediency of the referendum, questions of correctness and legal accuracy of the questions put for the referendum are completely under the authority of the initiator," the minister said.

In reply to a BELAPAN correspondent's question as to whether the justice minister feels ashamed of the wording of the question about the selling and buying of land, Mr. Sukala stressed that the Ministry had not been involved directly in the formulation of the questions, and added that indirectly, "we may be called the authors of some proposals which will be put forward as regards the amendment of the Constitution." The minister said that it is too early to talk about the correctness of the questions proposed for the referendum. Mr. Sukala admitted that it would have been better if all material concerning the initiative had been presented at the same time. He said that for the time being no one knows what was proposed by the President, either amendments to the Constitution, a new edition of the Constitution or a new Constitution. "I believe the Supreme Soviet will make an official assessment," Mr. Sukala said. The minister pointed out that according to legislative techniques, if more than 30 percent of the Constitution is changed, a new edition is required. Mr. Sukala said that a decision about the final date of the referendum and whether to have it on the same day together with the parliamentary by-elections (November 24) will be made by the Supreme Soviet only. "In my opinion, such a combination will mix different incompatible ideas. Secondly, I think the ideas behind the amendments into the Constitution will contradict the idea of the by-elections. Perhaps, they (amendments) will envisage a reduction in the number of deputies. Then what is the sense" of holding the by-elections. Nevertheless, as a member of the Central Electoral Commission, Mr. Sukala said that this combination is possible in terms of its organization. The minister stressed that according to the Constitution, Parliament has no authority to put its questions on the referendum initiated by the President or to correct the questions put by the Chief of State. "Although I know lawyers who interpret this in a different way," Mr. Sukala added. The minister pointed out that the Supreme Soviet has the authority to initiate a referendum and propose questions for it. "But I stress that it will be an alternative referendum," Mr. Sukala said and added that Parliament by force of more than 70 deputies may schedule an alternative referendum for the day of the President-initiated referendum. However the minister said that though this is possible in theory and permitted by legislation, "it is difficult to say what will be in practice."

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Belarus: Lukashenka Counts on Electorate's Support in Referendum

WS2008120896 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 20 Aug 96

[Interview by unidentified reporter with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka during his visit to Orsha and Talachyn on 19 August; in Russian — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] You met with the population today and said that by the time the referendum is held the state will eliminate wage and pension arrears. Did you discuss the issue of the referendum during your trip? Do you think that village people will support you and will take an active part in the referendum?

[Lukashenka] I deliberately did not touch upon the referendum issue, since I have already said everything I had to say at this point, when the [draft] constitution is not yet published. I have already expressed my opinions about the issues [offered for referendum], including private ownership of land, Independence Day, and the death penalty. I have met with pledges of support. I think that the people will support me, approximately the same people who voted for me in the past. I think that a part of the intelligentsia, too, will support me. As for wage arrears, I have promised to eliminate them, because this is doable. I did not make the promise in light of the referendum. At the same time, I did say today that if we fail to eliminate the wage arrears, it will make no sense to hold the referendum. The blame would be put on the president then, since our people are accustomed to this. Therefore, I am pressing the leadership to repay debts to the people. [passage omitted]

Belarus: Historians, Russian Movement Voice Support for Lukashenka

WS1908140196 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 16 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Letters received by our editorial office attest that the decision by the leaders of seven political parties to launch an onslaught on Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka evoked a public reaction contrary to the one expected by those politicians who had signed an appeal to hold the so-called round table.

The National Bureau of the Belarusian Scientific Association of Historical Knowledge and the Presidium of its Minsk city branch, which comprise academicians and corresponding members of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences, as well as doctors and candidates of science, have held an expanded session and issued a statement regarding the aforementioned appeal. In particular, the statement reads: Unlike extremist reactionary forces in the Supreme Soviet and in society, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka is the mouthpiece of progressive trends in the state's life. Despite all his drawbacks, he protects the interests of an overwhelming majority of the people.

The scientists believe that in the current complex situation power exercised by Alyaksandr Lukashenka is the only tangible counterbalance to reactionary forces in the Supreme Soviet and in society.

The same standpoint is shared by war and labor veterans of Drahichynski rayon and members of the Board of the Belarusian Torch Union named after [former first secretary of the Belarusian Communist Party] Masheraw.

Today our editorial board received the text of a cable sent to the Belarusian president by the Russian Motherland-Honor Association. The cable in particular reads: Do not believe those who are dragging you to all kinds of round tables. The great state [Soviet Union] was ruined namely due to those people. They initiated the spilling of blood on its territory and unleashed the Moloch of fratricidal wars. Instead of a round table, all prattlers and demagogues should be sent to harvest crops. It is there where the future of the nation will be resolved, and not in front of television cameras. The Russian people are with you!

Moldova

Moldova: Snegur Rules Out Military Cooperation With CIS States

AU2108111396 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 20/08/1996 (BASApress) — The economic cooperation with the CIS structures excludes the military one, because Moldova, according to its constitution, is a neutral state, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur stated while meeting today Ivan Korochenya, CIS Executive Secretary, is on one-day official visit in Chisinau [sentence as received].

Snegur said that "though it aims at the integration into the European structures," Moldova will grant a special attention to intensify "the mutually advantageous bilateral ties in many aspects with the former Soviet republics."

The conclusion of bilateral agreements between the ex-Soviet states gives a chance to the economic raise, said Snegur, according to the presidential press service.

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The adherence of Moldova, as well as other states from the ex-Soviet space, to the CIS must be suitable and correspond to the interests of the respective country, Moldovan Speaker Petru Lucinschi stated while meeting the CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korochenya. In his opinion, they should stress upon the economic issues and not political ones in the activity of the CIS.

The CIS states should agree upon a minimum of concrete directions of cooperation, which must be implemented through certain mechanisms, while on other aspects, they must draft agreements on association of a certain state to the CIS, he said. Lucinschi pronounced himself for the stimulation of cooperation between the CIS businesses, "to suspend the barriers in the trade exchanges."

Korotchenya also met Premier Andrei Sangheli, Foreign Minister Mihai Popov. They tackled issues connected with Moldova's participation in the CIS' activities and the 5th anniversary of the CIS which is to be celebrated in December 1996.

Moldova forms part of the CIS since this organization was founded (December 21, 1991), participating only in the common economic activities and refusing to join its political-military structures.

Moldova: Snegur Not To Sign Normalization Note With Tiraspol

LD2008180096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 20 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Mircea Snegur has said the signing of the memorandum of normalization with the breakaway region of Transdniester would set a negative precedent for Europe and worldwide.

In a live televised program late on Monday, the president said he would not sign the paper because of not wanting to create additional problems for Moldova.

"We know only too well that many countries run against the problem of separatism, which leads nowhere. But all countries seek to retain their territorial integrity, for example Russia or Georgia," Snegur said.

He expressed surprise at recent statements by parliament and a number of political groups criticizing him for not signing the memorandum. Snegur said that as guarantor of the Moldovan constitution, he could not sign the paper as it was now, because this would amount to a recognition that the self- proclaimed Transdniester republic was as legitimate as Moldova itself.

Snegur said his opponents who had little concern for Transdniester were out to prove he had no flair for compromise.

"In this case, the question is not one of compromise but of a catastrophic concession. Until recently, all concessions and compromises were on our part. We will be having more talks but not compromise by violating the constitution," he said.

Snegur lashed out at the government for contesting presidential decrees instead of executing them as well as for delayed pay and benefits and the critical state of the economy.

He called on the government for more responsibility and less politicking accusing it of seeking greater independence from the parliament and the president.

The president blamed it for the current energy crisis saying electricity was often unavailable in the countryside at night. He said all of this was caused by political ambitions by some cabinet members.

The cabinet was also accused of being oriented mostly at Russia and Ukraine and refusing to hold talks on energy imports from Romania.

Snegur described as absurd the allegations saying he owned industrial plants and held accounts in other countries, including Switzerland. "My critics have placed the blame at the wrong door, or were instructed by my rivals for the presidential office, or the author of those rumors must go and consult his doctor. It is most likely he had misplaced his charges," Snegur believes.

He reaffirmed commitment to fair electioneering within the fund limits envisaged by the law.

Snegur said that in the event of victory, he would press ahead with his earlier initiatives rejected by the parliament, including unimpeded land transactions and changing Moldovan into Romania as the country's official language.

Moldova: Dniester's Maracuta Considers Running for Presidency

AU2108113396 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tighina (Bender) 20/08/1996 (BASA-press) — The chairman of the Dniester Supreme Soviet (Parliament) Grigore Maracuta should resign if he intends to run for the Moldovan presidency, read a statement released by the Women Union from Tighina (Bender).

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BASA-press reports that the respective union pronounced itself categorically against the holding of presidential elections in Dniester.

Earlier, Maracuta opted for Dniester's participation in the presidentials scheduled for November 17. He did not exclude the possibility that he might run for the presidency.

The union also demanded to withdraw from Tighina the police commissariat subordinated to Chisinau and backs the sanctions applied by the local administration to the police employees.

Contacted by BASA-press, Valeriy Prudnikov, police commissar of Tighina (Bender), stated the local authorities cut off the commissariat from the city telephone network, warning it will disconnect the electricity and water supply as well.

Earlier, the Moldovan delegation in the Joint Control Commission protested against these actions.

Moldova: Lebed Supporter Reinstated as Tiraspol Garrison Commander

AU2108113096 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol 20/08/1996 (BASA-press) — Colonel Mikhail Bergman was charged as military commander of the Tiraspol garrison of the Dniester-based Russian mobile troops.

Bergman told the local media he was re-appointed in his position by the Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov. Rodionov's order also re-granted the first class status to the Russian military command in Tiraspol, according to which the command might have subunits for special missions.

Colonel Bergman, one of closest supporters of General Aleksandr Lebed, was dismissed from the position of military commander of the Tiraspol garrison by the Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev in November 1995.

Bergman viewed his dismissal as political revenge.

In March 1996, Bergman was rehabilitated by trial, but the former Russian Defence Minister Grachev refused to obey the court's decision.

So far, the reaction of Valeriy Yevnevich, commander of Russian mobile troops in Dniester toward the Bergman's rehabilitation is not known.

The special units were suspended in 1995 at the proposal of Yevnevich.

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Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Government Mission to Moscow on Integration Issue

LD1908203796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1758 GMT 19 Aug 96

[By Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 19 (Itar-Tass) - Tajikistan's government mission, led by Prime Minister Yakhye Azimov, has come to Moscow to speed up the republic's integration into transnational structures which have emerged on the post-Soviet space after the USSR collapse in 1991.

The mission links its visit to the forthcoming fifth anniversary of independent Tajikistan, which will be celebrated on September 9, ambassador to Moscow Ramazon Mirzoyev told Itar-Tass on Monday.

Mirzoyev said that during the visit, Azimov will meet Russia's first vice-premier Aleksey Bolshakov to discuss ways to step up the process of Tajikistan's joining the CIS Customs Union, the more so that a package of application documents is close to completion.

They will also consider a package of documents on dual citizenship, the ambassador said.

Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov and Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov will hold a separate meeting to address bilateral and international relations, he said.

The mission also involves first deputy speaker Abdulmadzhid Dostigayev.

Tajikistan: Clandestine Radio: New Russian Forces Sent to Afghan Border

LD2108102996 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Ambassador to Tajikistan Senkevich; Sa'id Ibrahim Hikmat, charge d'affaires of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to Tajikistan; and General Pavel Tarasenko, commander of the Russian Border Guards in Tajikistan, have arrived in Khorog, the center of Badakhshan Region, to consider the situation along the Tajik-Afghan border.

The commander of the Russian Border Guards has announced that fresh forces have been transferred from Dushanbe to reinforce the border. They are being stationed from Khorog up to the Plain of Yazgulom to (?strengthen) the border.

Tajikistan: Russian Border Guards Under Fire by Islamic Militants

LD2008102196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0903 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 20 (Interfax) — Militants from Tajikistan's Islamic Revival Movement, camping at Gurgudi, a village in Afghanistan, last night fired rockets into the Tajik border community Pyanj, where the Russian border unit of the same name is based and the servicemen's families live in blocs of flats.

The shelling lasted for 40 minutes, the Russian Border Service has reported, recalling that the previous bombing of Pyanj on Sunday continued for over three hours.

"It was only due to good luck that none of the border guards or their family members were hurt," the service said, adding that "civilian casualties are still being determined."

Although tension has been rising high, the Russian and Tajik sides have been sparing no effort to stabilize the border situation, the service said.

Afghanistan's Charge D'Affaires to Tajikistan Said Ibrahim Hikmat visited a border section at the invitation of the Tajik Foreign Ministry last Sunday.

After his inspection, the diplomat admitted that Tajik rebel actions are unprovoked by nature, the service said, regretting at the same time that nothing has been done to curb Tajik rebel raids from Afghanistan.

As for Russian border guards in Tajikistan, they are there in line with CIS and intergovernmental accords, the service explained.

A statement, addressed by the border service to Afghan authorities, says that "while abiding in their actions by appropriate legislative acts, the Russian border guards expect a reciprocal attitude to them from the neighboring state authorities."

Tajikistan: Opposition Declares 'Jihad' Against Afghan Ismailis

LD2108093196 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 1150 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Competent sources reported that Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the United Opposition Forces, told the leadership of the Islamic Rebirth Movement of Tajikistan on 16 August, that he has proclaimed a jihad against the Afghan Ismailis. The reason for this is that Ismaili groups on the border in the Islamic State of Afghanistan are trying to squeeze over 200 Tajik mujaheddin under the control of commanders

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Tojiddin, Amirbek, Sher, Saidjon, and Abdujabor from the territory under the Ismaili groups' control. The Tajik mujaheddin commanders, on the orders of the Islamic Rebirth Movement of Tajikistan, have concentrated their armed forces in the border areas of Afghan Badakhshan and are carrying out active preparatory work to violate the state border at Khorog, with the aim of breaking through to the Garm districts. This was reported in particular in a note issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan on 12 August.

Experts think that the Afghan Ismailis are, first, trying to avoid the unpleasant consequences of any appropriate measures taken by the Border Troops of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, and second, the Tajik mujaheddin have recently been giving more and more support to the Sunni military-political groups of the Islamic State of Afghanistan that are confessionally and ethnically related to them. It is also known that Nuri has on more than one occasion already expressed his displeasure at the position taken in the fight against official Dushanbe by the Ismaili fighters of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. He has called on them to increase their activities, or else he will "sort them out" later.

In his address to the above-mentioned conference of the leadership of the Islamic Rebirth Movement of Tajikistan, Nuri also issued a stern warning to those present that not a single mujahed should refer to the cease-fire agreement reached at the Tajik talks. He said that talks with the government of the Republic of Tajikistan are his personal affair and do not concern the mujaheddin. For them the war will continue until the last government soldier remains or until power has passed into the hands of the Islamists.

Tajikistan: UN Envoy in Iran for Talks With United Tajik Opposition

LD2108103996 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dietrich Merrem, the UN secretary general's special envoy dealing with the Tajik problem, arrived in the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, yesterday morning to hold talks with leaders of the United Tajik Opposition.

Informed sources say that Merrem will hold meetings in Tehran with Professor Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, the first deputy leader of the United Tajik Opposition, and officials from the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss holding a meeting between prof. Sayed Abdullo Nuri, the leader of the Islamic Movement and United Tajik Opposition and President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan. Merrem said the plan is to hold the meeting in mid- September in Moscow.

Prof Turajonzoda said it was pointless to hold such a meeting without a general reconciliation agreement and political compromise.

Tajikistan: Opposition Activists Exchanged for Government Hostages

LD2108085696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0841 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Aug 21 (Interfax) — Tajik government officials exchanged three opposition activists for four hostages in the village of Magmurod situated 15 kilometers to the northeast from Dushanbe on Tuesday [20 August] evening, a senior security officer told Interfax Wednesday.

The four hostages include two security officers, the local police chief and a local civilian who were captured by the unit of field commander Rakhman Sanginov on August 16.

The hostages feel "reasonably well," the security officer said.

The exchange was held in the presence of the chief U.N. military observer in Tajikistan, Hasan Abaz.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: Iran's Velayati Arrives, Meets Foreign Minister

LD1908210296 Tehran IRNA in English 2014 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashgabat, Aug. 19, IRNA — Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister told the press on his arrival here Monday that the regional conference on the Afghan peace process will be held in Tehran on October 28-29, 1996.

Velayati said that according to the agreement reached between Iran and Afghanistan, the peace conference will be attended by foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Iran and the neighboring countries.

The foreign minister pointed out that the objective behind peace conference is the idea of assisting the Government of Afghanistan in bringing about peace, stability and calm in the war-torn Afghanistan.

Velayati exchanged views with Boris Shikhmuradov, the Turkmenistan foreign minister in this regard, which was welcomed by the host country.

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Shikhmuradov indicated that he will be participating in the peace conference of Tehran as a regional cooperation move in order to help Afghanistan in trying to make a peace settlement.

The two side also discussed the latest development in Tajikistan and Shikhmuradov briefed Velayati on the recent negotiation held between the government and the opposition group in that country.

The two foreign ministers also agreed to continue their efforts in helping the Tajik Government and the opposition group to continue their negotiations in the place of their choice be it Tehran, Ashgabat or elsewhere which did not really matter.

Both Shikhmuradov and Velayati discussed the trend of progress in, and ways to boost up the promotion of bilateral relations and regional cooperation.

Shikhmuradov welcomed the most recent gas accord between Iran and Turkey, saying that it was one of the biggest developments in the region.

Velayati arrived in Ashgabat Turkmenistan on Monday and was received by Boris Shikhmuradov, the Turkmen foreign minister.

Turkmenistan: Iran's Velayati Meets Niyazov; Leaves

LD2008152296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bilateral, trilateral, and regional cooperation was discussed at a meeting between our country's foreign minister and the president of Turkmenistan, in Ashgabat.

[Turkmen President] Saparmurad Niyazov emphasized that Ashgabat was following up the decision to implement the agreements and understandings reached with the Islamic Republic of Iran's president concerning bilateral relations and regional cooperation.

He also said that he fully supported the staging of a regional conference on Afghanistan in Tehran on 8, 9 Aban [29, 30 October] noting: Turkmenistan, as ECO's rotating head, will mobilize all its efforts to strengthen political and economic cooperation between the members.

For his part, [Iranian Foreign Minister] 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that he was glad about the progress made in relations between the two countries. He described our country's position toward the expansion of regional cooperation, adding: Tehran considers that trilateral cooperation complements each other in the region; it encourages other countries to take part in regional cooperation and also strengthens peace and security. He said that Iran was prepared to assist in every way to bring about this kind of cooperation.

Our country's foreign minister and Turkmenistan's president also announced that they had agreed to the staging of the ministerial meeting of the Caspian Sea littoral countries on 21-23 Aban [11-13 November]. Comprehensive cooperation between the two countries in the economic, trade, and industrial fields, including gas and oil, were among other issues discussed at this meeting.

Today, Velayati also met Deputy Presidents of Turkmenistan Boris Shikhmuradov and [?Sarjayev Batyr] and discussed trilateral relations between Iran, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine and also, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Armenia.

Ways of speeding up the implementation of trilateral agreements; Turkmenistan's participation in ECOAIR [ECO airline] and ECO shipping were discussed at this meeting.

Velayati and his accompanying delegation today ended their official visit to Turkmenistan and left Ashgabat for Tehran. He was seen off officially by Shikhmuradov.

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Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Prosecutor General, Iranian Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD2008142696 Tehran IRNA in English 1119 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Aug. 20, IRNA — Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Baku Afshar Soleymani and Republic of Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General Eldar Hasanov in a meeting here Monday [19 August] discussed ways of boosting bilateral cooperation on judicial affairs.

Referring to the geographical closeness and also historical ties between the two neighboring countries, Hasanov emphasized the need for all-out efforts to boost bilateral cooperation.

He expressed hope that during his imminent visit to Tehran ground will be paved for further expansion of bilateral ties in judicial affairs. Hasanov is invited by his Iranian counterpart Ayatollah Morteza Moqtada'i to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The two sides also stressed the need for intensifying bilateral cooperation to fight against drug smuggling and terrorism.

Azerbaijan: Presidential Adviser Says Karabakh Talks Continuing

LD2008200196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 20 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vafa Gulu-zade, Azerbaijani presidential adviser on foreign policy matters, sees direct Azerbaijani-Armenian talks on a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as an "uninterrupted process."

"This dialogue is under way and will be continued," he told Interfax in an exclusive interview in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku on Tuesday.

Gulu-zade confirmed his taking part in the talks.

Armenian senior presidential adviser Zhirair Liparityan is Armenian negotiator at the talks, he said.

No serious results have so far been achieved but the sides are moving toward serious results, Gulu-zade said.

The contacts between the personal representatives of the two countries' presidents are for the good of both conflicting sides "despite the fact that Armenia is the aggressor while Azerbaijan is victim of the aggression," he said.

However, both Armenia and Azerbaijan cannot develop normally because of the conflict, Gulu-zade said.

Azerbaijan's key goal is to "free its land, return refugees home and bring an end to the Armenian aggression," he said.

Gulu-zade praised the efforts of international intermediaries for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the scope of the OSCE Minsk Group.

He also emphasized the importance of the Azerbaijani president's personal contribution to the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Azerbaijan wants to achieve a political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as soon as possible, Gulu-zade said, adding that there was no alternative to a political settlement of the conflict.

Armenia has denied the earlier reports about a future meeting between the personal representatives of the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents "in a European capital" this week.

"No such meeting has been anticipated for the near future," a representative of the secretariat of Armenian presidential adviser Zhirair Liparityan told Interfax on Tuesday.

Georgia

Georgia: Agreements Ratified With Iran, Turkey, Romania, Lithuania

AU2108101096 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 15 Aug 96 p 2

[SAKINFORM report under rubric "Official Information": "Agreements Have Come Into Force"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran

In order to bring into force the treaty and agreement concluded between the Georgian Government and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the treaty between the Georgian Government and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on trade relations that was signed on 20 January 1993, and the agreement between the Georgian Government and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on cooperation in the sphere of culture, science, and education that was signed on 21 April 1995 have been ratified by a decree of the Georgian president.

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Between the Georgian Government and the Government of the Republic of Turkey

In order to bring into force the agreement between the Georgian Government and the Government of the Republic of Turkey that was signed on 4 April 1996, the agreement between the Georgian Government and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on cooperation in the sphere of communications has been ratified by a decree of the Georgian president.

Between the Georgian Government and the Government of Romania

In order to bring into force the agreements and convention between the Georgian Government and the Government of Romania that were signed on 26 March 1996, the agreements between the Georgian Government and the Government of Romania on scientific and technical cooperation, international road communications, air service, merchant shipping, economic and scientific-technical cooperation in the sphere of agriculture and the food industry, and cooperation in the sphere of tourism and the convention between the Georgian Government and the Government of Romania on cooperation in the veterinary and sanitary sphere have been ratified by a decree of the Georgian president.

Between the Georgian Government and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

In order to bring into force the agreements concluded between the Georgian Government and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 12 April 1996, the agreements on international road communications, air communications, commercial and economic cooperation, cooperation and mutual assistance in the sphere of customs, cooperation in the sphere of tourism, and cooperation in the sphere of sport have been ratified by a decree of the Georgian president.

Georgia: Russia Extradites Mkhedrioni Activist Kurdiani

LD2108100596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919 GMT 21 Aug 96

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, August 21 (Itar-Tass) — Russian interior services have extradited to Georgia an activist of the Georgian paramilitary organisation Mkhedrioni (Horse-Riders), Timur Kurdiani.

Kurdiani, 41, was detained in Moscow and turned over to the Georgian Interior Ministry on its request under the inter-ministerial extradition agreement.

Kurdiani is charged with part in serial terrorist acts which had been staged in Tbilisi.

The acts left dead deputy interior minister Giya Gulua, in April 1994, the National Democratic Party's leader Giya Chanturiya, in December 1994, and the Democracy and Revival Foundation's chairman Khabeishvili, in June 1995.

Mkhedrioni was active in 1993-95 and was outlawed in the autumn of 1995.

Georgia: Transcaucasus Railroad Restoration Said 'Blocked'

MM2108090696 Moscow PRAVDA PYAT in Russian 21 Aug 96 p 1

["Own Information" report: "They Do Not Want To Repair the Railroad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The document on restoring the Adler-Sukhum-Samtredia section of the Transcaucasus Railroad route, signed in Moscow last fall, has been blocked and is not being implemented. Having analyzed the project, Tbilisi evidently came to the conclusion that it would be Abkhazia which would benefit first and foremost from the railroad being put back into operation, whereupon Georgia lost all interest in reconstructing the roadbed. At present Georgia is using the branch line through Azerbaijan and the sea ports in Poti and Batumi. There is no commodity turnover whatsoever between Abkhazia and Georgia today, Abkhazian Prime Minister Gennadiy Gaguliya told your PRAVDA-5 [as published] correspondent.

Georgia: Tbilisi May Grant Territorial Status to South Ossetia

LD2008202796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 20 Aug 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Aug 20 (Interfax) - Tbilisi may grant South Ossetia a territorial status within the single Georgian state only if Takhinvali abandons all plans of unification with North Ossetia, Irakly Machavariani, Georgian presidential envoy for national security issues and settlement of conflicts in Georgia, told journalists in Tbilisi Tuesday.

He said the Georgian authorities will not allow ambiguity as to the future of South Ossetia.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze may meet with South Ossetian leader Ludvig Chibirov only after Tskhinvali defines its position on the territorial integrity of Georgia, said Machavariani.

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Georgia: Human Rights Violations by Police Said 'More Frequent'

AU2008110296 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 14 Aug 96 p 1

[IBERIA report: "If the Police Treat You Unlawfully, Phone Us; Statement by the Georgian Procurator's Office" issued in Tbilisi; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gross violations of human rights by police officers have become more frequent in Tbilisi and throughout the country. We are referring to illegal searches, the beating of suspects, and other unlawful actions. The Georgian Procurator's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are combating this phenomenon as best they can — criminal proceedings have been initiated against dozens of guilty police officers.

We would like to inform the population that a department for investigating internal affairs bodies and overseeing the rule of law in respect of the protection of human rights functions within the Procurator's Office. It is directly entrusted with implementing adequate measures to counter these actions.

We appeal to all who have knowledge of violations of the law by police officers to phone us immediately on the following numbers: 982578, 982581, 997267, 957489.

Georgia: New Interior Minister Appointed in Ajaria

LD2108111396 Tbilisi BGI in Russian 0840 GMT 21 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] — A new head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ajaria has been appointed. Jumber Takidze became interior minister in accordance with a decision of the Supreme Council of the autonomous republic. Before his appointment he held the post of head of the investigation unit of the criminal police department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Georgia: IMF Delegation 'Positively' Assesses Economic Reform

AU2008154596 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 12 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Giorgi Kalandadze: "Valavi Thinks the Bread Production Sphere Should Lose Its Monopoly"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last week, an IMF delegation headed by Mohammad Shadman-Valavi visited Georgia. The mission's aim was to view those results that are necessary to obtain the second tranche of the ESAF [Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility] program.

The IMF representatives were received by Parliament Chairman Zurab Zhvania. They positively assessed the process of current economic stability and the implementation of the ESAF program. Valavi pointed out that over the long period that he has been active in these matters, Georgia has been the first country where deputies have participated directly in the negotiating process with the IMF. "From the macroeconomic point of view, the economic growth indicator was much higher than had been expected," stated Shadman-Valavi, and added that positive results had been achieved in structural reform. The privatization process is proceeding successfully and reform of the banking system is being implemented according to schedule.

As Shadman-Valavi stated, on 23 September, on the basis of information supplied by the mission, the fund's board of directors will discuss the question of allocating the second tranche of the ESAF program to Georgia. According to Valavi, all conditions exist for the adoption of a positive decision regarding this question.

In a conversation with a REZONANSI correspondent, Davit Onoprishvili, chairman of the parliamentary Committee for Economic Policy and Reforms, stated that certain problems had arisen in connection with the privatization of the bread products corporation. It is known that the corresponding installations were removed from the auction lists and were transferred to collectives according to the rules governing leasing and repurchase. Davit Onoprishvili said that an installation cannot be viewed as being privatized while the state holds 51 percent of the shares. However, in accordance with Georgian legislation, leasing and repurchase are one of the rules governing privatization. "It is a fact that an installation cannot be viewed as being private until 51 percent has been repurchased," stated the parliamentary committee chairman. In spite of this, the IMF mission reckoned that the monopoly in the bread products sphere had to be abolished and prices liberalized. As the mission's representatives said, this problem will not be viewed as a precondition for the allocation of the tranche. However, they believe that the process of repurchasing these installations should be speeded up. [passage omitted]

Georgia: Jan-Jul Inflation Rate Put at 9 Percent

AU2008091296 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 15 Aug 96 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Inflation Has Gone Down"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deflation has been recorded in Georgia. In July of this year, compared with June, inflation dropped by 2.5 percent. Over the last seven months, it has run at 9 percent. Experts believe there will be no significant change in the inflationary process in August.

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Estonia

Estonia: Vahi, Finnish Prime Minister Discuss Russia, NATO

LD2008190996 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Tiit Vahi met his Finnish counterpart today. I asked him to tell the radio listeners about his meeting.

[Begin Vahi recording] There was a good opportunity today to speak to Finnish Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen, for about an hour and a half. We had three... [pauses] four items on the agenda: first, undoubtedly, the development of the Estonian-Finnish economic and political cooperation, and, to be more precise, prospects for concluding a visa-free travel regime at the end of the year. Both parties held the view that corresponding agreements could be concluded by the end of the year and visa-free travel put into action between Finland and Estonia.

The second important issue was of course the security issue for the Baltic Sea and the Baltic states. And, third, Estonian-Russian and Finnish-Russian relations since the [Russian] presidential elections and the decision that Chernomyrdin's government would continue in Moscow.

Indeed, there are decisions being made under which the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary will join NATO in the first group, but this is not the final list, as Lipponen told me, and, as we all know, this does not at all mean that it is impossible for the Baltic states to join NATO. It means that the first list has been decided. Estonia, of course, must continue working, both within the PFP [Partnership for Peace] program and in the broadening NATO cooperation programs. This is also our opinion. In principle, Finland and the other Nordic countries see also NATO's major role in consolidating security in the Baltic Sea region. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Estonia: Vahi Receives PRC State Councillor Li Tieying

LD1908201496 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Estonian Prime Minister today met Chinese State Councillor Li Tieying, who is on an official visit to Estonia. The meeting focused on new Chinese investment in Estonia, the export of the Iris AS fertilizer factory's output to China, and the import of the Chinese raw materials to Silmet [Estonian rare earth metals producer]. The meeting's participants also discussed an agreement on prevention of double taxation between the two countries and the opening of an Estonian mission in China.

[Reporter] China is interested in Estonia, first, as a transit country for accessing European and American markets. The meeting also discussed specific projects. China is interested in building a tax-free warehouse and a department store in Estonia, in buying output of the Iris AS Estonian fertilizer producer, and in continuing to supply raw materials to Silmet. Vahi said that in order to bring these projects to life, an Estonian-Chinese double taxation avoidance agreement should be signed.

[Begin Vahi recording] A double taxation avoidance treaty between Estonia and China is currently on the agenda. The treaty is basically ready but not yet ready for signing. It will guarantee that exporters and importers will not suffer double taxation. [end recording]

[Reporter] So far, 115 firms which are fully or partly based on Chinese capital have been registered in Estonia. According to the Ministry of Economics, 28 of them are active and their total capital amounts to 14.6 million Estonian kroons.

[Begin Vahi recording] We said that we have a positive attitude toward cooperation. Of course, we wish that if China sets up an enterprise here, with its capital and its investments, we would, no doubt, want to see that local labor is used. [end recording]

[Reporter] Vahi said that next year Estonia is planning to open its trade or consular mission in China and later, definitely, an embassy as well.

Estonia: Meri Receives PRC State Councillor Li Yieying

WS2108081896 Tallinn BNS in English 1928 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Aug 20, BNS — China is interested in widening cooperation with Estonia and will sharply react to any threats on Estonian independence.

Chinese Minister of State Li Tieying now on a four-day visit to Estonia was Tuesday received by President Lennart Meri, to discuss prospects of developing bilateral relations in the political and economic spheres and opportunities of regional economic cooperation between Estonian counties and Chinese provinces, the president's press service informed BNS.

President Meri underlined that Estonian-Chinese relations had developed rapidly and there were still many opportunities of cooperation. Estonia could offer China its infrastructure to develop transit trade as well as its

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experience of developing relations with Western Europe.

Li Tieying said China was very much interested in widening cooperation with Estonia and was convinced in the success of Estonia's economic reforms.

The Chinese minister of state said that China could see no problems in deepening its economic and cultural relations with Estonia. He said China desired wider cooperation with the whole world and at the same time it wanted other countries to know more about China.

The Chinese minister of state reaffirmed China's resolute opposition to the use of any methods of force in international relations and was of a high opinion of the Estonian government's clearly expressed view on that issue. "China is sure to sharply react to any armed threats to Estonian independence," Li Tieying said.

The Chinese vice-premier Li Lanqing, who visited Tallinn in June, also said that the Chinese government would sharply react to any threats to Estonian independence. China supported Estonia's independence already in the thirties and it was the first Asian country to recognize the restoration of Estonian independence, Li Lanqing said. "While recognizing Estonian independence and territorial integrity, China will form an opinion of countries which should jeopardize it," Li Lanqing said in Tallinn in June.

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